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Miyuki Nakayama
Spirits & Cat Ears

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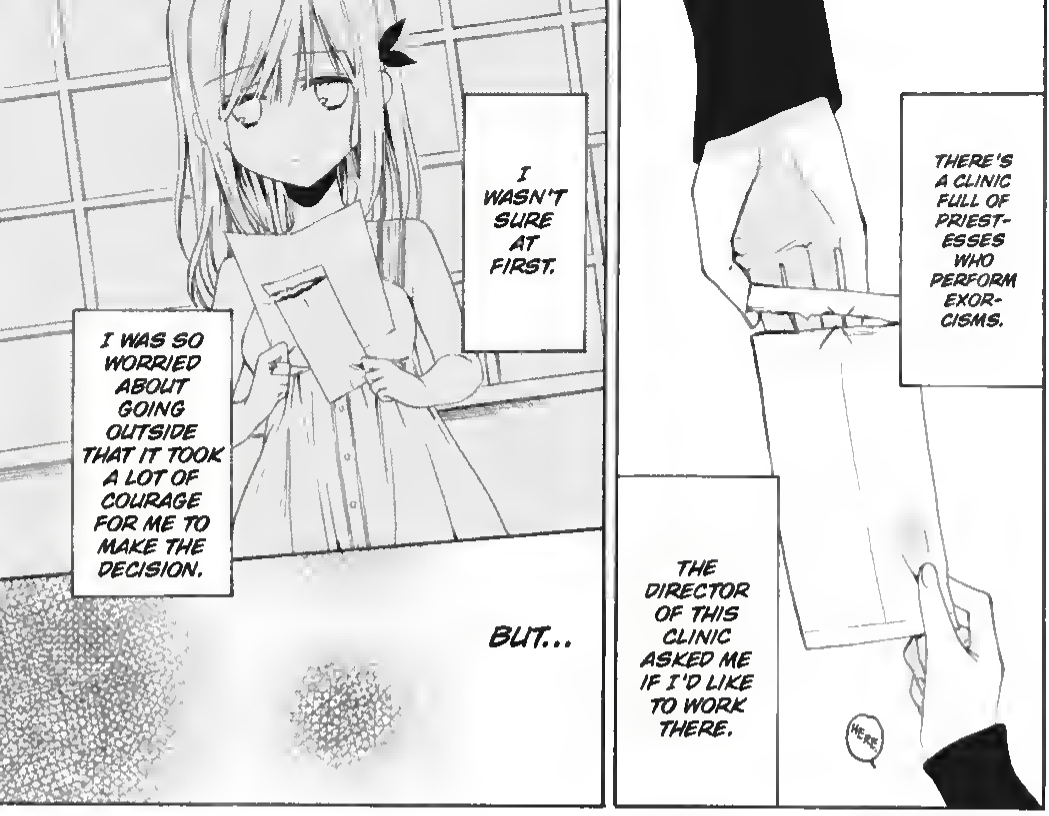
JUST WAIT.
THERE'S STILL A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE.
HEY, WE'RE STILL NOT LEAVING?
PRIEST-ESSES.
WOMEN WITH THE ABILITY TO CONTROL FAMILIAR SPIRITS VIA WORDS OF POWER.
I'M JUST ABOUT TO HEAD OUT TO THE PLACE WHERE I'M GOING TO BE WORKING AS A PRIESTESS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I BUILT IN SOME EXTRA TIME.
KOSO (HIDE)
WELCOME TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD
YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT IN TIME, RIGHT?
KOSO
SO...
...WAIT A LITTLE LONGER. JUST UNTIL MOST OF THE PEOPLE ARE GONE.

PAGE 1 NEW LIFE, NEW GOALS

I'M NE-NEKO IIZU-NA.
I'VE BEEN LIVING COOPED UP IN MY HOME FOR CERTAIN REASONS.
MY HAT'S ON STRAIGHT, RIGHT?
HE'S SHICHI-KAGE SAGA-MI.
YOU SAY THAT BUT IT'S BEEN AN HOUR ALREADY
HE'S MY FAMILIAR, AND HE CAN CONTROL CHAINS. I UNCON-SCIOUSLY SUMMONED HIM BECAUSE I WAS SO LONELY LIVING AS A SHUT-IN.
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP WE WON'T MAKE IT NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME WE HAVE
BUT... THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE OUT THERE...
...AND I HAVEN'T BEEN OUTSIDE IN YEARS. I'M SCARED...
SO?
HOW MUCH FARTHER TO THE CLINIC?
UM...
ACCORD-ING TO THE LETTER THE DIRECTOR SENT ME ...
GOS


I WASN'T SURE AT FIRST.
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT GOING OUTSIDE THAT IT TOOK A LOT OF COURAGE FOR ME TO MAKE THE DECISION.
BUT...
THERE'S A CLINIC FULL OF PRIEST-ESSES WHO PERFORM EXOR-CISMS.
THE DIRECTOR OF THIS CLINIC ASKED ME IF I'D LIKE TO WORK THERE.
HERE

I'VE MADE IT THIS FAR.
GOTTA DO MY BEST!
...I WANTED TO EVENTUALLY...
...GO OUTSIDE AND LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.
SO I TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STEP OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE AND INTO THE WORLD BEYOND.
GU (CLENCH)

IF I VISUALIZE A BETTER, MORE POSITIVE IMAGE OF MYSELF ...
... AND ACT ACCORD-INGLY, I'M SURE EVERY-THING WILL GO WELL!
IF I WALK WITH CONFIDENCE, NO ONE WILL LOOK AT ME FUNNY.
FIRST, A CONFIDENT STRIDE!
B-BUT HOW DO YOU EVEN DO THAT? .....
IF I DO IT WRONG ...
... EVERYONE WILL THINK I'M WEIRD ...
THEY'LL THINK I'M WEIRD. THEY'LL SUR-ROUND ME... ...AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET AWAY ...
THAT'S IT!
I JUST NEED TO VISUALIZE AT TIMES LIKE THIS!
IT'S STILL PRETTY FAR, NENEKO-SA—
どよ…
DOYO (GLOOM)
WHY DO MY THOUGHTS ALWAYS TAKE A NEGATIVE TURN...?
BIKU BIKU BIKU
BIKU (TREMBLE)
S-SORRY.
CAN WE JUST WAIT ANOTHER HOUR?

NENEKO-SAMA.
COME ALONG.

KYAAAA!!
ZAWA
ZAWA
(CLAMOR)

HFF!
HFF!
I WAS TRYING TO AVOID BEING NOTICED. WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AND MAKE US STICK OUT EVEN MORE!?
A-A COLLAR IS SO E-EMBAR-EMBARRASS-ING...
I JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD DO SOMETHING AS YOUR FAMILIAR.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
N—
NO, I'M NOT !!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!
HE'S NOT A BAD GUY, BUT STILL...
IF YOU KEEP DOING STUFF LIKE THIS, I'LL GET RID OF YOU SOMEDAY, YOU KNOW.
HMPH!
MY FAMILIAR...
...HAS A WEIRD HABIT OF RESTRAIN-ING ME.
IT'S A HUGE PROBLEM.
AND HE'S REALLY PUSHY TOO!

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT TAKE YOUR MIND OFF YOUR FRIGHT...
YOU WERE FRIGHTENED, SO I FIGURED I SHOULD CARRY YOU.
SORRY.
...
GUILT
SHUN (DROOP)
しゅん！
ARE YOU...
...GOING TO GET RID OF ME?
BY THE WAY...
WHAT A SOFTY...
...I FOR-GIVE YOU.
IF YOU'RE SORRY FOR WHAT YOU DID, WELL... I GUESS ...
MAYBE I WAS A BIT HARSH.

...WE'VE ARRIVED.
若 診療所
WAKA CLINIC
... AREN'T YOU GOING TO GO IN?
YEAH.
BUT... WAIT.
THE WAKA CLINIC.
THIS IS WHERE I'M GOING TO LIVE FROM NOW ON.
URGH, NGH...
G-GOTTA VISUALIZE GOING IN.
BIKU
BIKU (SHAKE)
IRA (IRA)

WELCOME.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE A TRIP~!
ESPECIALLY LIKE THAT.
HE'S NOT SORRY AT ALL!
I'M SO SORRY ...
I'M NOT ALWAYS LIKE THIS!
AH-HA-HA. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
WELL THEN, SHALL WE GO HAVE A CHAT IN THE PARLOR? ...OH, BUT FIRST...
PUT ME DOWN! PUT ME DOWN!
...LET ME...
...INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M YUKARI WAKA...
...THE DIRECTOR OF THIS CLINIC. I'M ALSO A PRIESTESS, JUST LIKE YOU.

I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM A FOLLOWER, SO I DECIDED TO SEND YOU THAT LETTER.
THERE JUST AREN'T THAT MANY PRIESTESSES OUT THERE, SO GETTING TIPS AS TO WHERE TO FIND ONE IS PRETTY HARD.
YOU CAN TAKE OFF YOUR HAT, YOU KNOW.
O-OKAY.
SO THIS IS WHY YOU WERE LIVING AS A SHUT-IN, IS IT?
A "KUDA," A PIPE-POSSESSING FOX SPIRIT THAT A PRIESTESS WOULD NORMALLY USE AS A FAMILIAR...
THEY'RE SAID TO HERALD DISASTER AND DISEASE, SO THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS TO DISLIKE THEM FOR, AREN'T THERE?

I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAME TO BE POSSESSED.
BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD THESE EARS.
YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF POSSESSED BY QUITE A NUISANCE, HAVEN'T YOU?
IT COULD EVEN AFFECT YOUR HEALTH...
I MEAN, IT CAN'T EVEN BE EXORCISED BY ANOTHER PERSON...
AND EVERYONE STARTED AVOIDING ME BECAUSE OF THEM.
I LOST ALL OF MY FRIENDS...
...SO I STARTED HIDING IN ORDER TO NOT RUN INTO ANYONE.

...WHEN YOU SENT ME THAT LETTER...
...I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO EXORCISE THE KUDA IF I PUT MY POWERS TO USE AS A PRIESTESS HERE AT THE CLINIC.
AND I DECIDED TO PUT MY FAITH IN THAT HOPE AND GO OUTSIDE.
SO...
BUT...
...I WANT TO WORK HERE AS A PRIEST-ESS...
...EXORCISE THE KUDA, AND LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.
I SEE.
YOU DO HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF DOING THAT HERE THAN SHUT UP IN THE HOUSE.

I REALLY AM GLAD THAT YOU CAME. WE'RE LOW ON PEOPLE WHO CAN EXORCISE EVIL SPIRITS, SO WE WERE IN QUITE A BIND.
ALSO, THE PEOPLE HERE AT THE CLINIC ARE USED TO SUCH THINGS, SO THEY'VE BUILT UP A TOLERANCE FOR THEM.
THEY WON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT IT, SO YOU CAN LIVE THE NORMAL LIFE THAT YOU WANT HERE.
THOUGH YOU DEFINITELY WILL NEED A HAT OUTSIDE.
YOU CAN REST EASY.
BUT, YOU KNOW...
...I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY PRIESTESS WORK AS YOU ARE NOW.
AH HA!
HUH!?

WHAT?
THEN WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ...?
GUI (TUG)
IT'S JUST FOR NOW. YOU'RE STILL TOO INEXPERIENCED AS A PRIESTESS.
LOOK...
...AT MY PRIESTESS MARK.
THE KNOT HAS FOUR LOOPS TO IT, RIGHT? WHEN YOU GET ALL FOUR LOOPS, THAT'S WHEN YOU BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED PRIESTESS.
FOUR...
YOUR FAMILIAR'S POWER IS TIED TO IT, SO IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
HOW DO YOU GET FOUR OF THEM?
THROUGH YOUR BOND WITH YOUR FAMILIAR.

YOU NEED YOUR FAMILIAR WHEN YOU USE YOUR POWER AS A PRIESTESS.
BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY USE HIM PROPERLY IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, RIGHT?
SO YOUR FIRST TASK IS TO GET TO KNOW HIM BETTER AND DEEPEN YOUR BOND WITH HIM.
ONCE YOU'VE DONE THAT, USING HIM WILL RAISE YOUR POTENTIAL AS A PRIESTESS, AND BEFORE LONG, YOU'LL BE READY TO BEGIN YOUR WORK.
AND SO... YOU'LL MOSTLY BE DOING ODD JOBS HERE AROUND THE CLINIC.
I WANT TO GET YOU USED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND YOUR POWERS LITTLE BY LITTLE. BESIDES...

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, AS LONG AS IT'S SOMETHING STRONG THAT WILL GET YOUR FAMILIAR MOVING.
AS I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE, YOU NEED TO USE WORDS OF POWER IN ORDER FOR YOUR FAMILIAR TO MANIFEST HIS POWER.
YOU FOCUS YOUR POWER INTO YOUR WORDS AND USE THEM ON YOUR FAMILIAR.
...YOU HAVEN'T USED YOUR WORDS OF POWER YET, HAVE YOU?
WORDS OF POWER...
ALSO...
EEK!
...USING WORDS OF POWER WHEN YOU'RE DISTRACTED CAN ANGER THE SPIRITS, SO BE CAREFUL.
THIS CAN ACTUALLY BE PRETTY DIFFICULT THOUGH.
WORDS ...
AND THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO DIRECT YOUR WORDS RIGHT AT YOUR FAMILIAR, REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION.
ANYWAY, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT STUFF TOMORROW.
FOR NOW, JUST GET SOME REST IN YOUR ROOM.
KOTO (CLACK)
HERE'S THE KEY TO YOUR ROOM. YOU'LL FIND YOUR THINGS IN THERE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

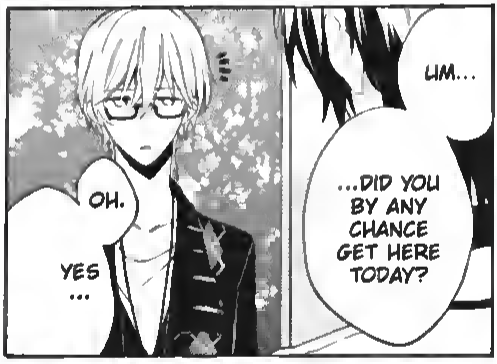
?
HEH! HEH! HEH!
THIS IS A REALLY WONDERFUL PLACE, YOU KNOW. ♡
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL!? YOU'RE SURE TO BE SUPER-SUPER-SUPER-HAPPY WITH YOUR LIFE HERE!
WE'RE CLOSE TO THE SEA, SO YOU CAN EVEN GET FRESH SEAFOOD TO EAT!
"SUPER-SUPER-SUPER-HAPPY"?
S-SO MANY NEW THINGS. I'M KIND OF LOST...
GAMN (TA-DAA)
EACH ROOM COMES WITH A HUGE FLAT-SCREEN TV, PRIVATE BATH, AND REFRIGERATOR. AND YOU EVEN GET A GORGEOUS VIEW AT NIGHTTIME!
ON THE OUTSIDE, IT LOOKS LIKE A CLINIC, BUT INSIDE, IT'S LIKE A NICE, COMFORTABLE INN!
THERE'S AN INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS OUTDOOR BATH, AND IT EVEN INCLUDES A SAUNA.
YOU'LL ALSO FIND A COOL, REFRESHING BAMBOO THICKET IN THE COURTYARD, A LOUNGE PERFECT FOR SETTLING IN WITH A GOOD BOOK, AND EVEN A FULL BAR DOWN IN THE OH, BASEMENT!!
BUT NO DRINKING UNTIL YOU'RE OF AGE! ♥
YOU SEE, HAVING POWERS LIKE WE DO...
...CAN LEAD TO A LOT OF HARDSHIPS IN LIFE.

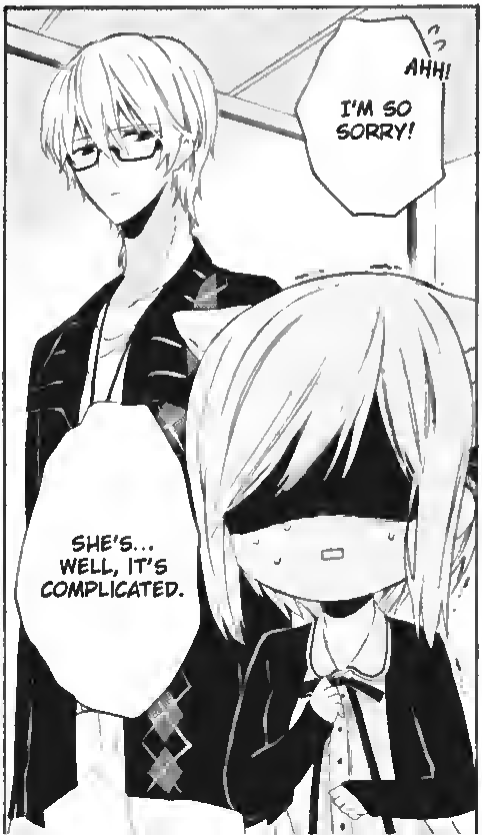
SO...
...AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANT EVERYONE TO HAVE A FUN, COMFORTABLE LIFE HERE.
OKAY! LET ME TELL YOU HOW TO GET TO YOUR ROOM.
SHE SAID WE'RE STAYING IN THE "PLUM ROOM."
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY SHARING A ROOM?
SHE DID SAY WE COULD TAKE TWO ROOMS...
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER ALL THIS TIME, SO I'M FINE WITH IT.
BESIDES, I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU, NENEKO-SAMA.
BUT WE COULD AT LEAST HAVE SEPARATE ROOMS...
SHE DISAPPEARED

!
EEK!
OH!
WAH!
SAGA (HIDE)
I'M SO SORRY!!
OH NO, EXCUSE US.
SORRY FOR STARTLING YOU...
PA (PAFF)
OH NO! MY EARS...
YOU'RE A NEW FACE.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M SHINGETSU SAIGAMI. I'M A FAMILIAR.
AND THIS IS MY PRIESTESS, MIYA SOUNOICHI-SAMA.
BOSO (MUMBLE)
PLEASED TO MEET YOU...
I—
I...I'M NENEKO IIZUNA!
N-NICE TO MEET YOU!!
PA (SHINE)
I...I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS!
.....
THEY'RE NOT SAYING ANY-THING.

ぽいっ
PUI (SNUG)
ビシッ
BISHI (PING)
M—
MIYA-SAMA!?
スタスタスタスタ...
SUTA (STEP)
SUTA
SUTA
SUTA


UM...
...DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE GET HERE TODAY?
OH.
YES ...


AHH!
I'M SO SORRY!
SHE'S... WELL, IT'S COMPLICATED.

I SEE.
THEN I'M SURE TONIGHT IS GOING TO BE FUN.

...SO THAT'S HOW IT IS, NENEKO-SAMA.
MIYA-SAMAAA! PLEASE WAIT FOR ME~!
どよ!
?
ANYWAY, I'LL BE SEEING YOU.
TA (STEP)
AHHH...
SHE TOOK SO MUCH DAMAGE THAT SHE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO VISUALIZE ANYTHING...
GAKU (TREMBLE)
GAKU
GAKU
HFF! HFF!
HFF! HFF!

BIKU (STARTLE)
NENEKO-SAMA, WOULD YOU LIKE GREEN TEA OR OOLONG?
HYOKO (PEEK)
WAAAH!
SHU (GLIDE)
YOU SCARED ME!
YOU HAVE TO KNOCK FIRST!!
OH.
HERE. I'LL DO YOUR SASH FOR YOU.
HUH? OH, THANKS...
I'M GOOD AT TYING THINGS UP.
D-DON'T SAY THAT LIKE YOU'RE PROUD OF IT.

SHUN (DROOP)
...DID THAT GIRL EARLIER DECIDE SHE HATED ME BECAUSE OF MY EARS AFTER ALL?
WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE...?
.....
DOSA (FLUMP)
COME ON —!!
I KEEP TELLING YOU NOT TO TOUCH MY EARS!
IT MAKES ME ALL TINGLY!
HEY, STOP! WHAT THE —!?
AHH !?
GA (GRAB)
FUNI (ENGLISH)
BIKU
FUNI
FUNI
BIKU (TWITCH)
N-N-N-NOT THE EARS! STOPPP!
BIKU
FUNI
FUNI
BIKU

OH...WAS HE TRYING TO CHEER ME UP...?
THOUGH...
TOGA (FLUMP)
HE SAID IT'S COMPLICATED, DIDN'T HE?
THERE, THERE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR USUAL VISUALIZ-ING?

HAAH...
...MAYBE...
...IT'S MY FAULT FOR STILL BEING SO INEXPE-RIENCED...
SU (LIFT)
...EVEN WHEN YOU DO IT, YOU STILL END UP NEGAPRESSED AS ALWAYS, SO THERE'S NO REAL POINT.
HEY, SHICHI-KAGE!!
WHAT DOES "NEGAPRESSED" MEAN?
IT'S SHORT FOR "NEGATIVE AND DE-PRESS-ED."

GET TO KNOW MY FAMILIAR AND DEEPEN OUR BOND...
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR A PRETTY LONG TIME NOW. I THINK I KNOW A LOT ABOUT YOU...
LIKE, UM, YOU'RE A FAMILIAR, AND YOU USE CHAINS. YOU'RE GOOD AT SEWING.
YOU MAKE CLOTHES FOR ME. YOU HAVE A BAD HABIT OF RESTRAINING ME. YOU WEAR GLASSES.
YOU'RE EXPRESSIONLESS. YOU HAVE WAVY HAIR. YOU ALWAYS SAY A LITTLE TOO MUCH. YOU'RE PUSHY IN THE WEIRDEST WAYS...
THE LAST HALF OF THAT WAS NOTHING BUT COMPLAINTS.
.....
ACTUALLY, THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME.
HUH? WHAT!?
I WANT TO RESTRAIN YOU EVEN MORE... WITH CLOTHES.
LIKE A BUNNY-GIRL OUTFIT.
SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
A BUNNY-GIRL?
I'M ABSOLUTELY NOT LETTING YOU RESTRAIN ME LIKE THAT!!
AND...

...I LOVE YOU.
WHA—?

A SUDDEN CONFESSION OF LOVE
OOH!
HUH!?
WHA—!?
I ACTUALLY SAID IT! ☆
D-DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
I DIDN'T REALLY FEEL THE NEED TO SAY IT, BUT SINCE YOU NEEDED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME...
PURU (TREMBLE)
UH!
UM.
UH.
WH-WH-WH—
WHY THAT A-ALL OF A SUD-DEN!?
IT WASN'T SUDDEN. I'VE FELT THIS WAY FOR A LONG TIME.
ALSO, NENEKO-SAMA?
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU TOO.
ZUI (LEAN)
BIKUU (STARTLE)
C-C-C-C-C—
CAN I VISUALIZE THIS FOR A SEC!?
NO.

I- I CAN'T DO THIS. I HAVE OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND RIGHT NOW. THIS IS NOT THE TIME.
I HAD NO IDEA! NONE AT ALL! I-I MEAN, HE'S ALWAYS LEASHING ME AND MAKING FUN OF ME.
F- F-F-FINE, THEN!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. L-LET'S JUST GO TO BED!
I'M GOING TO BED!
BOFU (FLUMP)
SHE RAN AWAY...
SFX: MOZO (SQUIRM) MOZO MOSO
MOYA (GLUM)
HUF HUF HUF
MOYA
MOYA
.....
!
...OH WELL.
I FIGURED SHE'D REACT LIKE THAT.
WAAAH...
I THINK I'LL TAKE THIS SIDE...

LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT, NENEKO-SAMA.
HUH?
BECAUSE OF YOUR TIME AS A SHUT-IN, YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT SOCIAL NORMS, DO YOU?
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO END UP EMBARRASSING YOURSELF, YOU KNOW.
TAKE THAT YUKATA, FOR EXAMPLE.
IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU DON'T WEAR UNDERWEAR BENEATH A YUKATA.
ISO (EAGER)
OH.
SHE BOUGHT IT...
SO ADORABLY STUPID...
ISO
...ALSO, YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEARN NOT TO BE SO TRUSTING.
?
?

MM...
MOZO (SNUGGLE)
SO COLD...
SHIVER
DON'T I HAVE ANYTHING TO COVER UP WITH? ...WAIT A MINUTE.
WAS... IT ALWAYS SO DARK IN THIS ROOM?

WIN-DOWS... LIGHTS...
FURA (WANDER)
FURA
HUH? WHERE WERE THEY AGAIN?
OH, THERE'S THE WALL.
PETA (PRESS)
ZOKU (SHUDDER)
!
IT'S TOO DARK I CAN'T SEE ...
WH—
WHO'S THERE?
SU (LIFT)

BLUA (FWOOSH)
!
SHICHI-KAGE!?
WE'RE RUNNING, NENEKO-SAMA.
BA (GRAB)

RUNNING ...?
BUT...
グッ
キュッ
...WHERE TO?
IT'S PITCH-BLACK. I CAN'T FIND A WAY OUT...
...A BARRIER, HUH?
SHICHI-KAGE!
I SENSE SOME-THING OVER THERE!
BA (WHIP)
SOME-THING?
WE'RE NEVER GOING TO FIND IT LIKE THIS...
!!

OVER THERE! AHEAD TO THE LEFT.
THE LEFT...
!
PIKU (TWITCH)
SU (GLIDE)
I...
...SEE!
JA (JANGLE)
BA (WHOOSH)

OWW! THAT HURT!
DON'T DO THAT! NO HITTING GIRLS, YOU KNOW.
DAMN.
NO HIDING FROM HER, HUH?
BACHI (THWACK)
EIJI (KOUJI?)

PARA (SPLATTER)
BLACK... PAPER?
PARA
PARA
SHU (FWISH)
...THEY'RE GONE.
TA (STEP)
TA
JA (CRUNCH)
JA
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

A—
A PRIEST-ESS!?
BUT WHY ...?
IT COULD BE THAT WE AREN'T ACTUALLY WELCOME HERE.
WH-WHAT WAS WITH THOSE PEOPLE ...!?
THEY WEREN'T EVIL SPIRITS, WERE THEY!?
NO, THAT WAS A PRIESTESS AND HER FAMILIAR.
WE'RE NOT WELCOME...
!
FOR NOW, LET'S JUST RUN. HOLD ON TIGHT.
DO (THUD)
TAKE ...
...THAAAT!!
YUSA (SHAKE)
SH-SHI-CHI-KAGE!
SHICHI-KAGE!!
YUSA
NENEKO-SAMA, I CAN'T SEE.

SORRY, BUT...
...YOU'RE NOT GOING ANY-WHERE.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY.
NENEKO-SAMA.

USE YOUR WORDS OF POWER ON ME.
IF YOU DO THAT, I CAN USE MY POWERS TO SAVE YOU.
WORDS OF POWER...!
BUT WHAT SHOULD I SAY!?
HMM, LET'S SEE...
I WANT SOMETHING SPECIAL AND CUTE.
SOME-THING TO GET ME IN THE MOOD.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
GU- (FWIP)
COME ON. HURRY.
W-WAIT A MINUTE! I CAN'T!
HERE WE GO!
DA (DASH)

DON'T SAY THAT!!
IT'S BEEN FUN.
...I GUESS THIS IS IT FOR US.
CAN I KEEP THE PIECES AS A MEMENTO?
HOROH! (SNIFFLE)
ZO (CHILL)
IF YOU WON'T DO IT...
DO (THUD)
WHAT...
ZU (LIFT)
WHAT DO I SAY!?
NO WAY... SOMETHING TO GET HIM IN THE MOOD?
...ARE YOU TWO YAPPING ABOUT!?
GOA (RUSH)
!!

G—
GET HIM, SHI-CHI-KAGE!
HM...
SA (PWISH)
RUN (WHOOSH)
WAH! WAH!
YOU JUST...
ZERO POINTS.
DON'T GET IT.
ARGH ...!
THINK...
...A LITTLE HARDER.

YOU LEARNED ...
...MORE ABOUT ME, DIDN'T YOU?
ABOUT...
...HIM?
HEY!
YOU MEAN THAT WHOLE "RESTRAINING ME WITH CLOTHES" THING!!?
SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
LIKE A BUNNY-GIRL OUTFIT.
A BUNNY-GIRL!?

UGH!
STUPID SHICHI-KAGE!
F-FINE!
R—
!
RE-STRAIN ME! I ALLOW IT.
NOW PLEASE SAVE ME, SHICHI-KAGE!!

GOT IT.

SORRY, BUT...
...NOW THAT I HAVE NENEKO-SAMA'S PERMIS-SION...
IS HE FOR REAL...?
I DO (SHOOSH)
...I WON'T HOLD BACK.
STOPPP!!

PFFT!
AH! HA HA HA HA!
YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL WHO'S THE MASTER HERE!
SOOO FUNNY!
GASAA (RUSTLE)
HA HA
HA HA HA!
!?
AH HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA HA!
IT'S NOT FUNNY, YOU KNOW...
HMPH!

I JUST WANTED TO CHECK AND SEE...
...HOW MUCH YOU TWO COULD DO.
DIRECTOR... SAN?
AH-HA-HA!
SORRY FOR SCARING YOU LIKE THAT.
IT'S OKAY. WE WEREN'T TRYING TO KILL YOU, SO YOU CAN SETTLE DOWN!
AHH, THAT WAS SO FUNNY!
BASA (RUSTLE)
BASA
I'M SURE...
IT'S KIND OF LIKE A RITE OF PASSAGE. WE DO IT FOR EVERYONE WHO COMES HERE.
BESIDES, YOU FINALLY MANAGED TO USE SOME WORDS OF POWER. GOOD FOR YOU!
YOU NEED TO PUT SOME FEELING INTO YOUR WORDS, SO YOU'VE GOT TO GET INTO IT!
...TONIGHT IS GOING TO BE FUN.
SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT!!
THAT WASN'T FUN AT ALL.

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.
THIS IS MIRAI OMOGAMI-CHAN...
...MY FAMILIAR. HE CAN CONTROL GRAVITY.
COULD YOU COOL IT WITH THE "-CHAN" ALREADY, DIRECTOR ...?
AND THIS IS MEME TAMA-YORI-CHAN, A PRIEST-ESS.
SHE WAS CONTROLLING THAT BARRIER EARLIER.
GAAAN (SHOOCK)
AND THIS IS HER FAMILIAR, ENISHI MOGAMI.
DEFENSE IS HIS AREA OF EXPERTISE. BE CAREFUL AROUND HIM— HE'S A PERVY OLD MAN.
YUKARI-CHAN, THAT'S SO MEAN!!
NOT JUST PERVY, BUT OLD TOO!?

WEL-COME TO...
...THE WAKA CLINIC!
I KNOW, I KNOW. I REALLY WILL MAKE UP FOR EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED TODAY TO-MORROW!
FORGIVE ME!
OKAY? OKAY!?
.....
JITO (STARE)
HAAH...
THAT WAS SCARY...
PETA (PLOP)
BUT...
SARI (CRUNCH)
...I MAN-AGED TO USE WORDS OF POWER.
OKAY, THEN...

!!
...LET'S GO.
HYOI (LIFT)
YOUR WORDS OF POWER ...
...REMEMBER?
HUH ...!?
GO? WHERE?

WE HAVE A STRANGE PAIR THERE, DON'T WE?
I'M JUST GLAD TO HAVE MORE CUTE GIRLS HERE! ♡
HANDS OFF, OKAY? ♡
GIRL WITH ANIMAL EARS! ♥
W-WAIT! I DIDN'T MEAN IT! I DIDN'T!
NO TAKE BACKS.
NO, NO, NO! I SAID I DIDN'T MEAN IT!
IF YOU KEEP BEING SELFISH, I'LL HAVE TO RESTRAIN YOU.
NOO!
ばたばた BATA
BATA (FLAIL)

I REALLY AM GLAD THAT THEY CAME...
I WONDER...
...HOW SHE WILL MATURE.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, ENISHI.
SORRY~! YOU WENT THROUGH SOMETHING SCARY BECAUSE I WAS TOO WEAK.
LITTLE LADY!?
I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER!!
ME TOO...
THAT FAMILIAR... IS FRIGHTENING.
THEY'RE WAY TOO WEIRD! WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THAT CRAZY POWER OF HIS!?

SHICHI-KAGE...
CAN I TAKE THIS OFF NOW!?
PURU (TREMBLE)
PURU
NO! I WANT TO BURN IT INTO MY MEMORY.
BURN IT OUT RIGHT NOW!
IT'S A CAT THEME
BESIDES, THIS ISN'T A BUNNY OUTFIT!!
MY NORMAL CLOTHES ARE REALLY NICE...
...BUT WHY DO YOU SOMETIMES MAKE THESE WEIRD OUTFITS TOO!?
BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE HOW YOU LOOK IN ALL KINDS OF OUTFITS.
I DID, BUT —!
YEAH, BUT —!
ALL THE SAME...
...YOU GAVE ME PERMISSION, SO DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT IT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S EMBAR-RASSING!!!!

THANK YOU FOR WEARING THIS FOR ME.
IT WAS WORTH THE EFFORT.
YOU LOOK ADORABLE.
I'M VERY HAPPY.
I'M THE ONLY ONE LOOKING AT YOU.
I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD MAKE FOR NEXT TIME?
BUT STILL, LISTEN UP! IT'S JUST THIS ONE TIME! NEXT TIME, MAKE SOMETHING MORE NOR—
LISTEN TO ME!
SHAAA (HISSESS)
OKAY, I'M LISTENING.
WHAT?
DOES HE REALLY LOVE ME!?
WH—
WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, IT'S REALLY HARD TO KEEP COMPLAINING ...
I KNOW.

TH-THANK YOU...
...FOR SAVING ME BACK THERE.
.....
UM...
...STILL...
...HE SAVED ME.
I—
I DO KNOW HOW TO SAY THANK YOU!
I DO!
HUH?
NO MORE GROUSING?
IT WAS ALL REALLY CHAOTIC IN THE END...
IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
WELL...
...I AM YOUR FAMILIAR.

...BUT I DID MANAGE TO TAKE MY FIRST STEP TOWARD BEING A PRIESTESS.
ANYWAY, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE OF THE SAME FROM NOW ON.
A-AM I GOING TO HAVE TO DO THIS EVERY SINGLE TIME!?
I DO THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO SUMMON MORE POWER IF I HAVE A REWARD WAITING FOR ME.
YOU JERK!

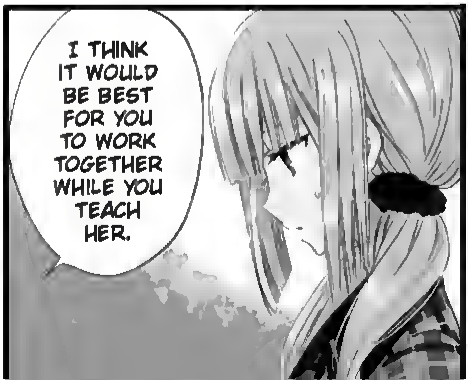
Spirits & Cat Ears

PAGE ② I MADE A FRIEND
CHI CHI
CHI (TWEET)
AHH...
THAT WAS A GOOD SLEEP.
MMM...
...BUT TODAY I START MY OFFICIAL LIFE HERE...I GUESS.
THIS IS MY SECOND DAY HERE AT THE CLINIC. A LOT HAPPENED YESTERDAY...
I HAVE TO WORK HARD TOWARD MY GOALS.
I HAVE TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED PRIESTESS AND FIND A WAY TO EXORCISE THE KUDA.
ALSO, I REALLY DO...
...WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS.
...ALL RIGHT!

HUH?
ME?

YOU'RE BOTH STILL IN TRAINING, BUT YOU ARE THE SENPAI HERE, MIYA-CHAN.

YES, I WANT YOU TO SHOW NENEKO-CHAN THE ROPES.
GISHI GOREAKO


I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO WORK TOGETHER WHILE YOU TEACH HER.

N—
NO!
NO PROBLEM WHATSOEVER.
OH, THAT'S GOOD.
IS THERE SOME PROBLEM WITH THAT?
THEN I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU TWO TAKE CARE OF THIS AT ONCE.
I'VE BEEN ASKED TO EXORCISE IT, BUT I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO SEE TO TODAY.
FOR NOW, I JUST WANT YOU TO PUT IT IN THE SAFE ROOM.
THE SAFE ROOM?
WHAT'S INSIDE?
A SWORD THAT'S BEEN POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT.

HA-HA.
THIS IS SUPPOSEDLY A SHORT SWORD THAT BELONGED TO SOMEONE WHO TESTED HIS BLADES ON RANDOM PEOPLE. PRETTY NASTY, ISN'T IT?
ANYWAY, THAT'S THE SITUATION.

IT'S THE ROOM WHERE WE PUT OBJECTS THAT NEED TO BE MEMORIALIZED.
IT'S OKAY. EVERYTHING IS BOUND WITH SEALS JUST LIKE THIS, SO YOU WON'T SEE ANY SPIRITS.
AND NOTHING'S POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BREAK THE SEALS.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO LEAD THE WAY, MIYA-CHAN.
OKAY.

TH—
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING!
PISHI (STIFF)

WELL, THEN...
...WE'LL SHOW YOU WHERE THE SAFE ROOM IS.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, JUST ASK.
O-OKAY!

MIYA-SAMA!?
AGAIN!?
PUI (SNUB)
I REALLY AM SORRY ABOUT THIS!
DÉJÀ VU...
MIYA-SAMAAA~!
ZUN (DROOP)
I GUESS SHE REALLY DOES HATE ME...
SHE WOULDN'T TALK TO ME YESTERDAY EITHER.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO BE NICE TO HER, YOU KNOW.
I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF...
WE'RE BOTH PRIEST-ESSES. I WANT TO TRY TO GET ALONG... BESIDES ...
...I...
...WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS...

I'M GOING TO VISUALIZE MYSELF BEING MORE CHEER-FUL!
I CAN'T LET MYSELF BE ALL GLOOMY AND WORRIED LIKE THIS, CAN I!?
BE LIKE THE AIR... THE AIR...
GOTTA ACT NATURAL AND TAKE IT SLOW.
I WAS JUST RUSHING THINGS A BIT.
SO!
OKAY!
WE'RE HERE!
THIS IS THE SAFE ROO—
WHAT'S WRONG?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER.
DOYO (GLOOM)
どよ～ん
BUTSU CHUTTERO
THE AIR...
I'M... NOTH-ING BUT AIR.
BUTSU

THIS IS THE SAFE ROOM.
COME ON IN.
I-IT REALLY DOES FEEL DIFFERENT IN HERE, DOESN'T IT?
.....
...AND IT'S MAKING MY BODY TINGLE.
IT'S KIND OF COLD IN HERE...
BURU (SHUDDER)

I IMAGINE PEOPLE WITH SPIRITUAL POWER FEEL SOMETHING OFF ABOUT THIS PLACE.
.....
IS THAT WHY I FEEL ALL COLD AND TINGLY IN HERE?
YEAH. I'M SURE PRIESTESSES ARE EVEN MORE SENSITIVE TO IT.
YOU'RE VERY SENSITIVE.
WHY ARE YOU REPEATING THAT?
OH...
SOUNOICHI-SAN IS AMAZING...
FIFTY..
SHELF NUMBER FIFTY..
SHE'S A TRAINEE JUST LIKE ME, BUT SHE'S FINE IN HERE.

SU (REACH)
I...
!!
...I HAVE TO GET MORE EXPERIENCE SO I CAN BE RESPECTABLE LIKE HER.
GU (CLENCH)
I'M SO WEAK. THAT'S WHY SHE WON'T GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY.
SHIN (SILENCE)
.....
OH! I KNOW.
UM!
LET ME HELP!
OH.
UM...
D-DON'T BE DISCOUR-AGED!
AH, I CAN AT LEAST ...

...CARRY ...
...THE BOX...
TON (TAP)
BA (WAVE)
!
BAGA (CRASH)

PA (GASP)
OH NO!
KACHA (CLATTER)
GYU (GRIP)
BOSO (MUMBLE)
HUH?
BUKU (STAND)
U-UM...
I'M SO SORRY...
MIYA-SAMA!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
JUST GET OUT.
I DON'T THINK YOU DID ANYTHING WRONG.
PATA
PATA
PATA
MAYBE I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO HOLD BACK SINCE I HAVEN'T DEALT WITH PEOPLE IN A WHILE.
I GUESS... I WAS BEING TOO PUSHY.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
NENEKO-SAMA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
PATA
PATA
PATA (PATTER)
YEAH... I THINK I MESSED UP...
THE DIRECTOR SAID EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALL RIGHT, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT WILL BE...
NO, JUST LOOK AT ME. I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE PUT A LITTLE MORE THOUGHT INTO IT.

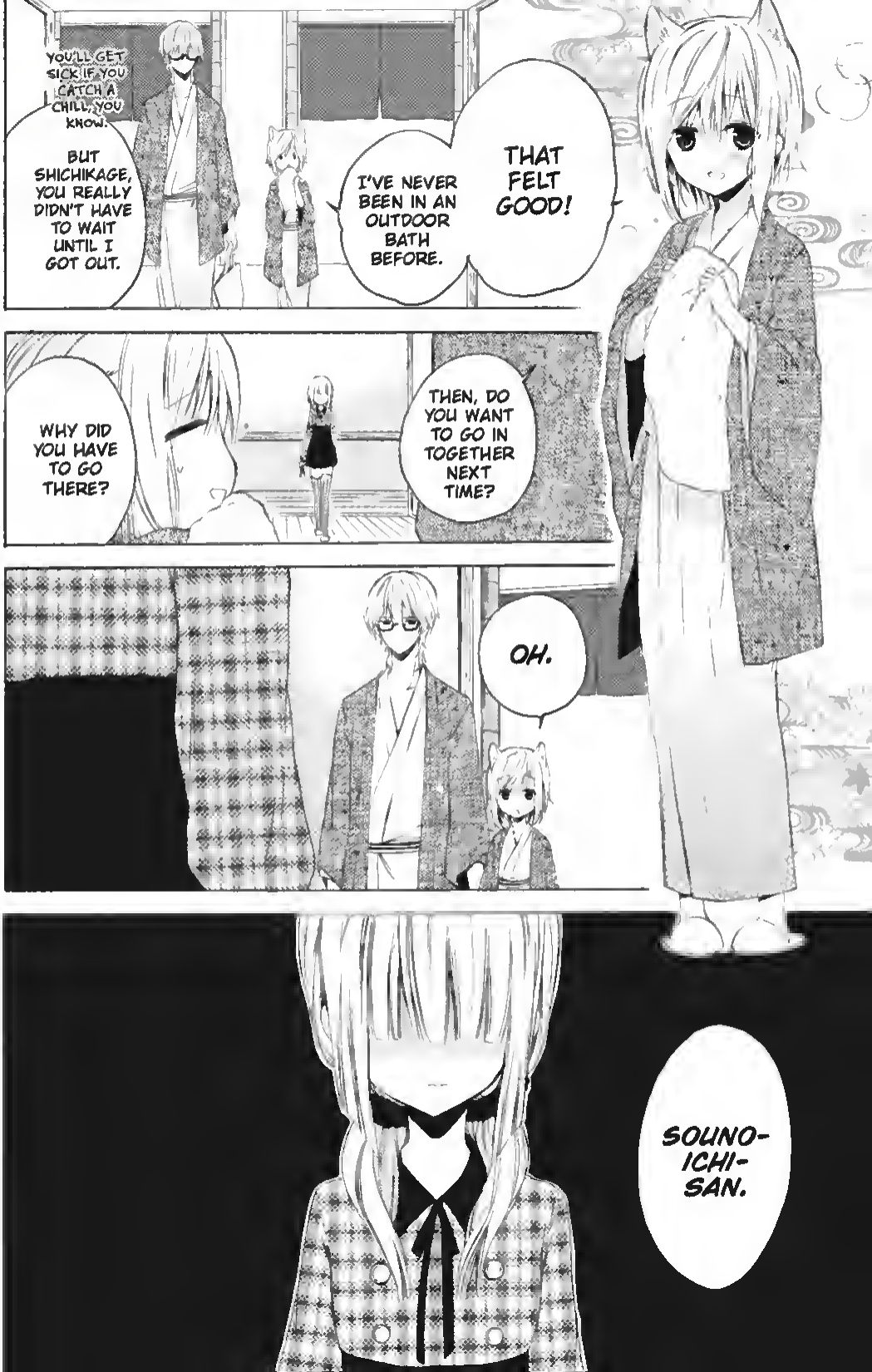
なで なで…
NADE NADE
なで
NADE (PET)
ポン
PON (PAT)
!
ギュッ
GYU (CLENCH)
…SHICHI-KAGE…
…I—
トン
TON (THUNK)

WELL, I HAVE THESE EARS...
... HUH?
DO I...
...SMELL LIKE AN ANIMAL!?
BA (WHAP)
KUN (SNIFF)
KUN
KUN
...SO MAYBE THAT CHANGED THE WAY I SMELL TOO...
...AND THAT JUST MAKES PEOPLE HATE ME EVEN MORE...
GUI (GRAB)
YOU...
WAH!
.....
?
SHICHI-KAGE?
PATA (THUMP)

...SMELL LIKE MILK.
MILK? ...OH!
GUESS WHAT!?
I HAD SOME MILK PUDDING THIS MORNING!
...
AHH...
IT WAS REALLY GOOD! I'D LOVE TO HAVE IT AGAIN!
I REALLY RECOMMEND IT, SO NEXT TIME YOU SHOULD HAVE SO——
MILK Pudding

HAA
HAA
CAN I JOIN IN? ♥
HAA (PANT)
HAA
HAA
DOKI (BADUM)
ドキ
DOKI
ドキ
DOKI
AH, EROTIC SNIFFING...
.....
PITA (STOP)
NO! WAIT, WAIT! I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!
DA (DASH)
OH, SO MEAN!!
IT'LL JUST BE YOU AND MIYA-CHAN HERE IN TERMS OF PRIEST-ESSES.
EVERYONE'S LEAVING?
TO (TMP)
WE'LL BE BACK TONIGHT, SO JUST TAKE CARE OF THE CLINIC UNTIL THEN.
WE ALL HAVE TO GO OUT TO TAKE CARE OF SOME THINGS, SO I WANTED TO ASK YOU TO HOLD DOWN THE FORT.

BIKU (TWITCH)
A WELCOME PARTY...
THE DIRECTOR SAID SHE'S THROWING A WELCOME PARTY FOR YOU TWO, SO GO AHEAD AND LOOK FORWARD TO THAT ~!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT, NENEKO-CHAN? I'LL GET YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT! ♡
WE'LL BRING YOU BACK SOMETHING TOO~!
DON'T TRY TO LURE HER.
WAAAH!
GO RIGHT AHEAD.
REALLY~! DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A BIT COLD THERE, SHICHIKAGE-KUN? YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME CRY, YOU KNOW! I'M TOO OLD FOR THAT!
WHAT SHOULD I ASK FOR...?
AHHH!


YOU'LL GET SICK IF YOU CATCH A CHILL, YOU KNOW.
BUT SHICHIKAGE, YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I GOT OUT.
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN AN OUTDOOR BATH BEFORE.
THAT FELT GOOD!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO THERE?
THEN, DO YOU WANT TO GO IN TOGETHER NEXT TIME?
OH.
SOUNO-ICHI-SAN.

U-UM ...
...I'M SO SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
DID YOU MANAGE TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING ...
...AFTER THA—
SHU (SHINK)

BA
(WHOOSH)
PAN
(F'WAP)
ZA
(F'WISH)

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHE...
SHE...!
THAT SWORD...
...WAS THE ONE IN THAT BOX...
NENEKO-SAN! SHICHI-KAGE-SAN!
SHE ACTUALLY HATES ME SO MUCH THAT SHE WANTS TO KILL ME...
THAT'S NOT IT.
!
IN HERE, HURRY!

I GUESS IT FOUND AN OPENING WHEN SHE PICKED UP THE BLADE.
SHE'S BEEN POS-SESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT!?
ALL I CAN DO IS SLOW HER DOWN A LITTLE...
UNFORTU-NATELY, I CAN'T USE MY POWER WITHOUT MIYA-SAMA.
IF ONLY THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO ABOUT IT...
ME !?
COULD YOU SAVE HER FOR ME?
NENEKO-SAN.

THINKING BACK ON HOW RUDE SHE'S BEEN TO YOU SO FAR...
...I KNOW I'M IN NO POSITION TO REQUEST ANYTHING OF YOU.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN ASK RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE?
I...
...DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER.
GU (STRAIN) F...
ZU GGL!?
WHOA...!
A FAMILIAR'S LIFE IS PART OF HIS PRIESTESS'S POWER.
IF THE PRIESTESS LOSES HER POWER, THEN THE FAMILIAR DISAPPEARS.
DISAP-PEAR?
YOU'RE GOING TO DISAPPEAR AT THIS RATE.
SHIN-GETSU-SAN!? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
I'M FEELING KIND OF WEAK ...

IF SOUNO-ICHI-SAN...
...LOSES HER POWER, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER!??
SHE'LL BE TAKEN OVER COMPLETELY, AND THAT WILL BE THE END FOR HER.
IF WE CALLED THE DIRECTOR, SHE COULD DO SOME-THING, BUT...
...WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR THAT...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
IT'S BECAUSE I GOT IN THE WAY BACK THERE...
AT THIS RATE, MIYA-SAMA... AND I WILL ...
GYU (GLENOID)
.....
SHICHI-KAGE.

HELP ME.
I... WANT TO SAVE SOUNO-ICHI-SAN.
SOUNOICHI-SAN!

YUBA (STAGGER)
GU (CLENCH)
DAN (DASH)
I WANT TO SAVE HER.
IF I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT, THEN I'LL USE FORCE IF I HAVE TO.
IF I CAN GET THAT SWORD AWAY FROM HER, I KNOW I CAN MAKE IT IN TIME.
IF I CAN CREATE AN OPENING, IF JUST FOR AN INSTANT...
TA (DASH)

ALL RIGHT ...!
I GOT HER—
GA (GRAB)
TAKE THAT!!
BUN (SWING)
BUN
BUN
TH-THAT'S DANGEROUS...!
KYAAA!
EEK!

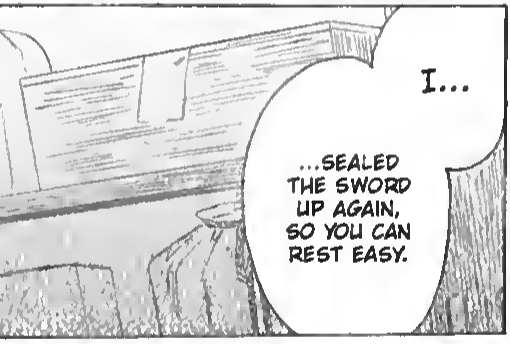
NO...!
DON'T LET GO! DON'T!
ZUKI (TWINGE)
SUPA (SLASH)
I—
IT'S ALL RIGHT! I'LL SAVE YOU!
I...
...WANT YOU TO TEACH ME ALL SORTS OF STUFF.
GUGU (STRAIN)
I WANT US TO WORK HARD TOGETHER. AND...

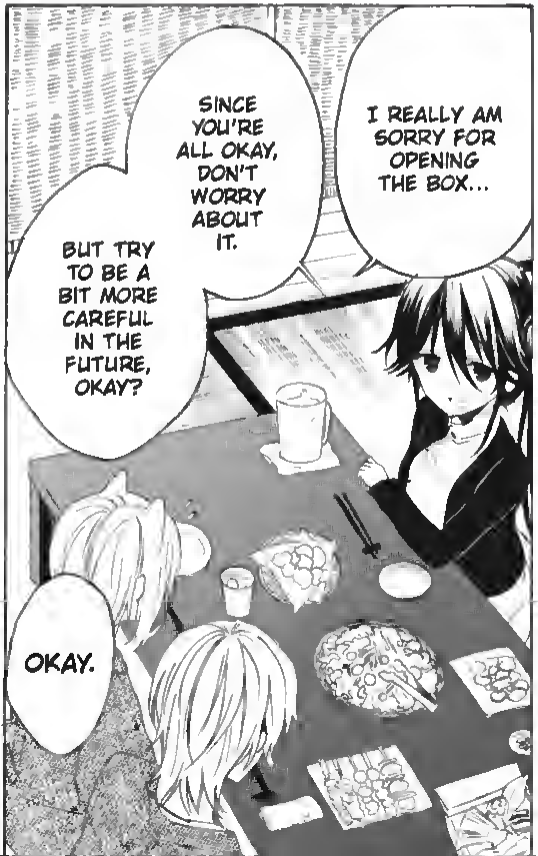
PIKU (TWITCH)
I WON'T LET YOU GET TAKEN OVER! I WILL SAVE YOU!
...I WANT US TO GET ALONG ...!
I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND!
NOW!
SHICHI-KAGE!
RESTRAIN ME. I ALLOW IT!
PLEASE! JUST SAVE SOUNO-ICHI-SAN!
TA (STEP)
STOPPING HER WITH A TACKLE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT AGGRESSIVE, YOU KNOW.

ZA (PWOOSH)
BUT IT'S JUST LIKE YOU.
KARAKARA (CLATTER)
GA (THWACK)

OKAY!
LET'S ALL WELCOME NENEKO-CHAN AND SHICHIKAGE-KUN TO OUR HOME ~!
CHEERS!!
YEEEEAH!

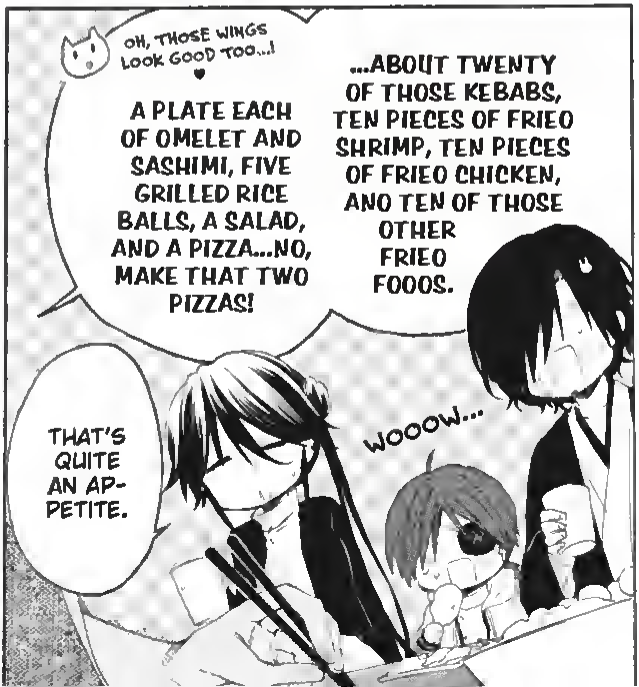
ぐったり……
GUTTARI (EXHAUSTED)
...UM, ARE YOU JUST NOT IN THE MOOD?
OH...
THAT'S NOT IT...


I...
...SEALED THE SWORD UP AGAIN, SO YOU CAN REST EASY.


I REALLY AM SORRY FOR OPENING THE BOX...
SINCE YOU'RE ALL OKAY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT TRY TO BE A BIT MORE CAREFUL IN THE FUTURE, OKAY?
OKAY.

GO AHEAD AND HAVE WHATEVER YOU WANT TO EAT AND DRINK! YOU TWO ARE THE GUESTS OF HONOR TONIGHT!
DON'T FRET AND JUST ENJOY YOUR WELCOME PARTY!
SO, COME ON!

A LOT HAPPENED TODAY...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...BUT I'M JUST GLAD THAT SOUNOICHI-SAN AND SHINGETSU-SAN ARE OKAY.
I'VE NEVER SHARED A MEAL LIKE THIS...
...WITH SO MANY PEOPLE BEFORE.


OH, THOSE WINGS LOOK GOOD TOO...!
A PLATE EACH OF OMELET AND SASHIMI, FIVE GRILLED RICE BALLS, A SALAD, AND A PIZZA...NO, MAKE THAT TWO PIZZAS!
...ABOUT TWENTY OF THOSE KEBABS, TEN PIECES OF FRIED SHRIMP, TEN PIECES OF FRIED CHICKEN, AND TEN OF THOSE OTHER FRIED FOODS.
THAT'S QUITE AN AP-PETITE.
WOOOW...

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT? I'LL GET IT FOR YOU.
UM, WELL...
PIN (TWITCH)

DEVIL'S BREW
THE FAVORITE OF FAMILIARS EVERYWHERE!!
SHICHI-KAGE-SAN!
HOLD OUT YOUR GLASS. I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU!
AS THANKS FOR TODAY!
?
MIYA-SAMA, HAVE SOME BONELESS CHICKEN.
...IS IT SPICY?
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
ENISHI, HAVE SOME MORE.
OH!
THANKS, LITTLE LADY!
DIRECTOR~! CAN'T I HAVE SOMETHING BESIDES JUICE~?
I'M A FAMILIAR TOO, YOU KNOW!
NOOOO WAY!
ONE HOUR LATER
HA HA!
UGGGGH!
Nooo!
HA!
BWAH-HA-HA-HA!
ANOTHER BOTTLE! GO GET ANOTHER BOTTLE!
GYAHH!
AAAAHHHH!
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

↑※DRUNK ON SODA

SFX: ORO (PANIC) ORO ORO

WHAT!?
JUST STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER! DON'T GROW UP! STAY A CHILD FOREVER!!
AHH, GLORIOUS FIFTEEN! FIFTEEN, RIGHT AT THE HEIGHT OF PUBERTY!
FIF-TEEE-EEEN!!
WAAAAAAH!
わあああああああん

SURU (SLIDE)
BUT YOU KNOW ...
WHAT THE —!?
AH-HA-HA. SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
SHE'S NOT SO MUCH INTO LITTLE KIDS, BUT SHE'S ALL ABOUT THE TEENAGERS ~!
SO SHE'S SET HER SIGHTS ON YOU?
EEK !?
...YOU HAVE QUITE THE BUST, DON'T YOU?
POYO
POYO (BOUNCE)
POYO

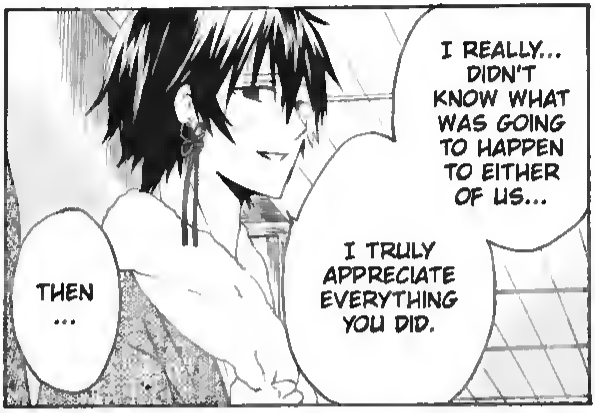
SOOO SOFT!
H-HELP ME!
NNGH
PUNI (SQUISH)
KUH (TUG)
PUNI

!

KUH (GULP)
NENEKO-SAMA...
...THIS IS A HIERARCHY, AND YOU'RE ON THE BOTTOM.
NO WAY!
GAN (SHOCK)
MUNI! (SQUISH)

SOUNO-ICHI-SAN ...!
JI (STARE)
PUI (SNUB)
GAN (SMACK)
!!
OHH?
DID I GROPE A LITTLE TOO HARD?
GAKU (SLUMP)
LOOKS LIKE SHE TOTALLY HATES ME.
NEENEE-KOO-CHAAAAN? YOU OKAY?
WELL, I CAN'T BLAME HER... SHE WENT THROUGH SO MUCH BECAUSE OF ME...
DOYOON (GLOOM)

SIGN: WOMEN'S BATH



IT STINGS...
OH YEAH. I GOT CUT BY THE SWORD.
...HUH?
PASHA
※ TAKING ANOTHER BATH
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S PRETTY MUCH CLOSED UP...
CHAPU (SPLISH)
.....
CHAPU
WAH !?
BASHA (SPLOSH)

I—
I'M SO SORRY !!
BASHA
WHAA —!?
BIKU (STARTLE)
W—
WAIT !!
I-I-I-I-I-I'LL GET OUT RIGHT AWAY!!
BASHA (SPLASH)
BASHA
U—
U-UM...
UMM ...!
HUH?
HUH ...?
SHE'S INCREDIBLY SHY?

DOING EVEN THE MOST BASIC THINGS, LIKE DEALING WITH PEOPLE CASUALLY, IS HARD FOR ME.
SO I JUST RUN AWAY AND TRY TO PASS IT OFF AS BEING NATURALLY COLD.
...WHAT?
HER PARENTS CONTROLLED WHO AND WHAT SHE CAME IN CONTACT WITH WHILE SHE WAS GROWING UP.
AND THAT HAD A VERY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON HER.
トン TON (TMP)
I FEEL...
...SO PATHETIC AND ANGRY WITH MYSELF.
AND SO GUILTY.
I'M SORRY.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
SOUNO-ICHI-SAN.
ぎゅ CLEAND
THOUGH OUR CIRCUMSTANCES ARE DIFFERENT, WE'RE TWO OF A KIND...
I...
...I WAS SO MEAN TO YOU, BUT YOU STILL SAVED ME...

I'M JUST GLAD THAT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
I DON'T MIND.
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU! I'LL DO ANYTHING! I'LL EVEN BE YOUR SLAVE!
YOU FORGIVE ME!? ARE YOU AN ANGEL, IIZUNA-SAN!?
BASHA (SPLASH)
WELL... THAT'S A BIT MUCH...
UM... IN THAT CASE ...
...I'D LIKE YOU TO BE MY...
...!...
...FRIEND.
MOJI (FIDGET) #2...
I'M SO GLAD THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON...
I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT DEALING WITH PEOPLE EITHER. IT JUST NEVER WORKS OUT FOR ME.
I THINK WE'RE ACTUALLY A LOT ALIKE...

I'M SOR—
ZAPPAAAAN (SPLOOOSH)
OH!
YOU PROBABLY DON'T LIKE HAVING SOMETHING SO NEGATIVE IN COMMON, DO YOU!?
WAAAAH!?
SU (FWISH)
ONCE SHE OPENS HER HEART TO SOMEONE...
...I GUESS YOU COULD CALL THIS A REBOUND FROM HER SHYNESS.
OH.
BUT YOU KNOW...

...SHE'S EXTREMELY AFFECTIONATE.
UM... S-SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
BETTARI (CLING)
SO YOU TWO MADE UP, MIYA-SAMA!?
OH, BUT WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT OUTFIT, NENEKO-SAN?
I PROMISED SHICHI-KAGE...
YEAH, PERFECT.
NEKO-CHAN, YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY ADOR-ABLE!
THANK YOU, MIYA-CHAN...
LUCKY. CAN I CLING TO YOU TOO?
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S REALLY TAKEN TO YOU, NENEKO-SAMA.
GORONYAN (PURRRRR)
NO, YOU CAN'T...
YEAH...
BUT ...

...I...
MADE A FRIEND!
SHICHI-KAGE-SAN! COULD YOU MAKE THAT OUTFIT FOR MIYA-SAMA TOO!?
PLEASE!?
WELL, GIVE ME HER MEASURE-MENTS.
MIYA-SAMA! COULD YOU TELL ME YOUR MEASURE-MENTS?
I'LL CRUSH YOU, SHIN-GETSU.

DOES...
...MY UNIFORM LOOK OKAY?
DON'T WORRY! IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
HMM...
YOU'RE ADORABLE, NEKO-CHAN!
...ARE YOU SURE ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL?
YOU'RE PRETTY PICKY, AREN'T YOU?
THOUGH THE SUSPENDERS ARE A NICE TOUCH...
NOT ENOUGH FRILLS.
ALL OF THE CLOTHES YOU MAKE ARE ALWAYS REALLY FRILLY.
I KNOW. I'LL BE FINE!
THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING WELL SINCE I CAME HERE. I FEEL A LOT MORE CONFIDENT NOW!
IT'S OBVIOUS, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SPEND LARGE AMOUNTS OF TIME AROUND PEOPLE, YOU KNOW.
THOUGH IF YOU WANT TO GO, I WON'T STOP YOU...

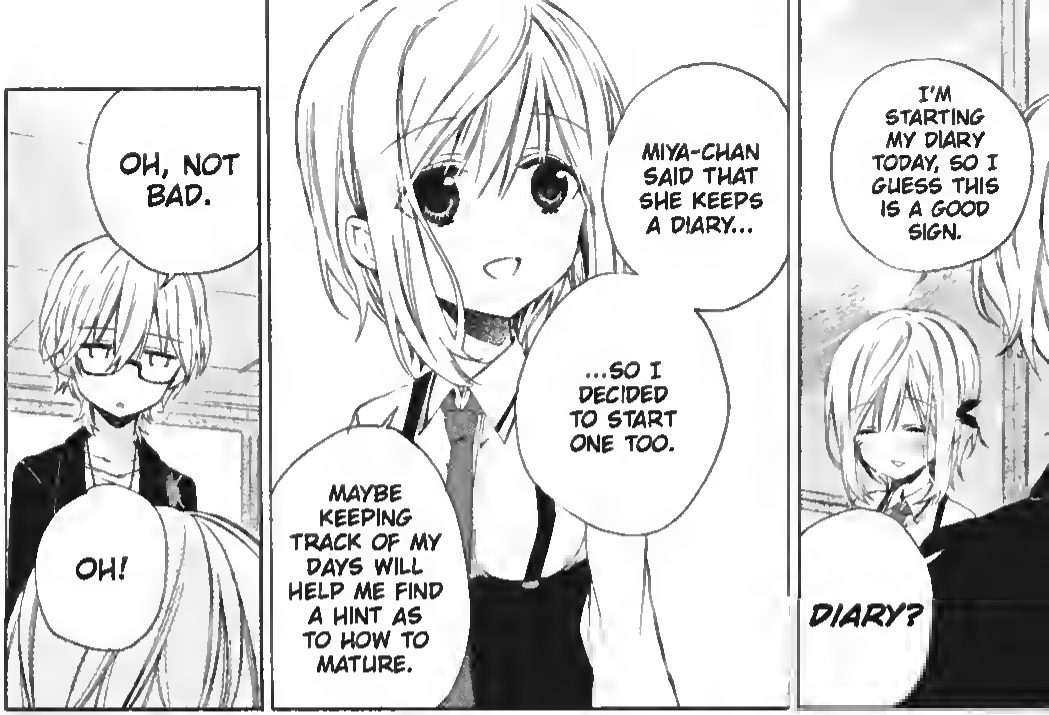
DON'T WORRY, SHICHIKAGE-SAN! MIYA-SAMA AND I WILL BE RIGHT THERE WITH HER ...
ポン (POOF)
SEE!?
IF WE STAY IN PAPER FIGURE FORM LIKE THIS, WE CAN BE RIGHT BY THEIR SIDES EVEN AT SCHOOL!
ペラ PERA (TALK)
I...DON'T LIKE THAT FORM...
I THINK IT'S CUTE!
.....
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT YOUR EARS?
WELL...
OVER HEEERE!
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE EARS ~!
MEME-CHAN, ENISHI-SAN.
KOSO (HIDE)

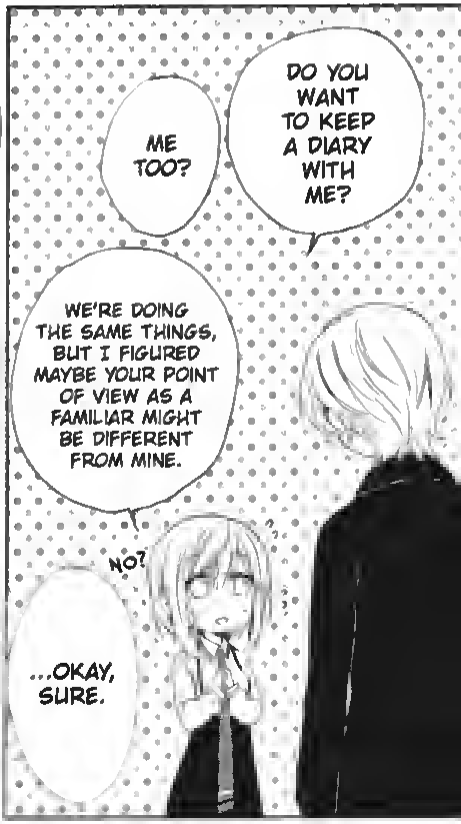
YOU DO THE HONORS, LITTLE LADY.
SLI (GLIDE)
OKAY.
ENISHI, SPIRIT OF PROTEC-TION.
I, YOUR PRIESTESS, MEME TAMAYORI, ORDER YOU.

SUU (VANISH)
FUWA (FWOOSH)
PROTECT NENEKO IIZUNA.
TH—
!!!
HERE, NENEKO-CHAN.
TAKE A LOOK!
THEY DISAP-PEARED !!
THEY AREN'T GONE ~!
I JUST MADE THEM INVISIBLE FOR A WHILE ~!
THEEERE, ALL DONE! ☆
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI

I LOOK NORMAL.
NO KUDA EARS...
OKAY...
BUT BE CAREFUL~! IF YOU USE YOUR POWER, MINE WILL FADE AWAY IN RESPONSE.
DON'T WORRY. I CAN KEEP MY POWER UP WHILE YOU'RE AT SCHOOL.
AND BE SURE TO BRING A HAT WITH YOU JUST IN CASE, OKAY~?
THANK YOU...
...SO VERY MUCH!
I'M... GOING TO GO HAVE FUN AT SCHOOL!
UM...!
MEME-CHAN, ENISHI-SAN...
GOSHI (RUB)

OKAY...! HAVE FUN...!
TERE (BLUSH)
TERE
HUH ...?
HA HA!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR MY ADORABLE NENEKO-CHAN!
HUH !?
YOU WANT TO THANK ME!?
I REALLY WASN'T EXPECTING ANYTHING~! HA-HA-HA!
AWW-WWW ~!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
BUT IF YOU INSIST ...
...I'D LOVE TO JUST PULL ON YOUR SUSPENDERS A LITTLE ~~~~!
HAA (PANT)
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
YOU CAN'T DO THAT, ENISHI!
BUT IT WAS JUST A JOKE~!
GARA (ANGLE)
NOW YOU CAN GO TO SCHOOL!


I'M STARTING MY DIARY TODAY, SO I GUESS THIS IS A GOOD SIGN.
DIARY?
MIYA-CHAN SAID THAT SHE KEEPS A DIARY...
...SO I DECIDED TO START ONE TOO.
MAYBE KEEPING TRACK OF MY DAYS WILL HELP ME FIND A HINT AS TO HOW TO MATURE.
OH, NOT BAD.
OH!


DO YOU WANT TO KEEP A DIARY WITH ME?
ME TOO?
WE'RE DOING THE SAME THINGS, BUT I FIGURED MAYBE YOUR POINT OF VIEW AS A FAMILIAR MIGHT BE DIFFERENT FROM MINE.
NO?
...OKAY, SURE.

I'LL GET US A NOTEBOOK.
THANKS!
WE'LL EACH USE A PAGE, THEN!

RIGHT NOW, I FEEL LIKE I CAN HANDLE ANYTHING— EVEN SCHOOL!
I'LL DO MY BEST ...!
YEAH.
なで
NADE (PET)
NADE
なで
NADE
なで
YOU REALLY ARE WORKING HARD AT THIS, AREN'T YOU...?
WAH!
WHAT !?
なで
NADE
NADE
TH— THANKS.
ZAWA (CLAMOR)
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
AH-HA-HA! THAT CAN'T BE THE REAL THING!
WHAA —!?
SOOO TIRED!
HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT SHOW YESTER-DAY?
OH!
YEAH, I SAW IT!
BWAH-HA-HA! SERIOUSLY!?
FOR REAL !?
MORNING!

S-SO MANY PEOPLE ...
I-I'M GETTING KIND OF DIZZY...
THERE ARE 480 TOTAL STUDENTS HERE.
WAS IT ALL IN MY HEAD!?
NEKO-CHAN, YOU OKAY?
FOUR HUN—
TH-THEN, IF I SCREW UP, I'LL GET 490 TIMES THE ABUSE?
THOSE CALCU-LATIONS ARE OFF.
I WOULD NEVER DO THAT TO YOU.
THEN, 479...
THAT'S WRONG TOO.
JIIN (TOUCHED)
MIYA-CHAN...
THE ANSWER IS ZERO!
AFTER ALL...
KIRI (SERIOUS)
...I'LL COMPLETELY DESTROY ANYONE WHO PICKS ON YOU.

1-B
I DECIDED THAT I WAS GOING TO DO MY BEST, SO I HAVE TO KEEP IT TOGETHER!
THAT'S RIGHT. MIYA-CHAN IS HERE FOR ME.
YOU CAN HOLD ON TO ME UNTIL YOU GET USED TO IT.
...THAT WAS A WEIRD CONVERSATION.
MIYA-CHAN...!
GYU (HUG)
WAY TO GO, MIYA-SAMA!
CHANGING ROOMS
ZURI (DRAG)
ZURI
I'M TRYING TO COLLECT THE PAPERS.
OH... UM...
I-I'LL DO IT... MYSELF ...
DURING CLASS
KURU (TURN)
IIZUNA-SAN? COULD YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF?
...IIZUNA-SAN?
.....?
.....
KACHIIIN (FROZEN)
✕SHE CAN'T QUITE TALK PROPERLY.
I-I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT END UP IN A DIFFERENT CLASS FROM MIYA-CHAN...
I'M SO SCARED THAT ALL I CAN LOOK AT IS THE WALL...
HEY?
BIKU (SHOCK)
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE NOT SICK, ARE YOU?
.....
.....I! AM O...KAY!!
OH...
DOKI (RAPID)
DOKI
I...
BAKU (BATHUM)
BAKU
DOKI

I'M HOPE-LESS...
TODAY'S LUNCH IS AN ORIGINAL JAPANESE-STYLE CREATION FROM THE CLINIC CAFETERIA.
YOU CAN'T HELP IT. IT'S YOUR FIRST DAY, AFTER ALL.
MY FIRST DAY...
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT SOON. AND THEN YOU WON'T CARE ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE!
I WON'T CARE...
OH... THANKS. THAT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.
BUT NEVER MIND THAT...
DOYO (GLOOM)

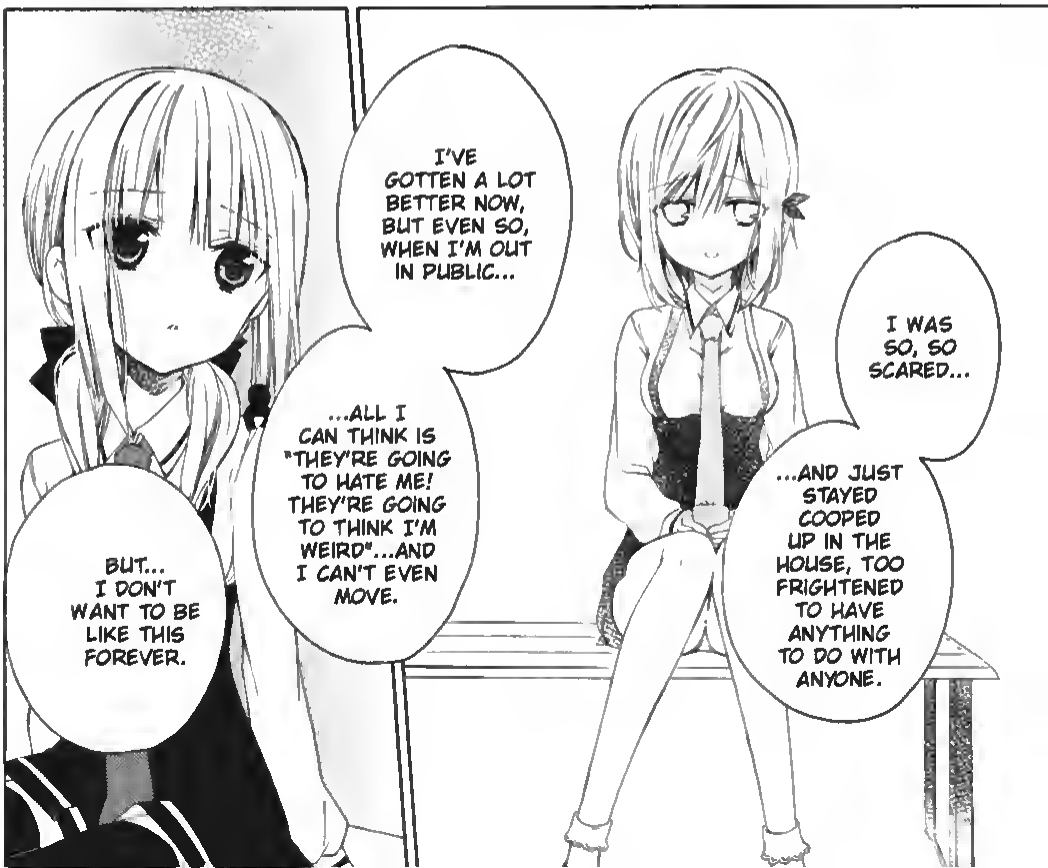
I'M SORRY. I'M MAKING YOU WASTE YOUR LUNCH BREAK HERE WITH ME...
HUH?
YOU WERE GOING TO EAT WITH YOUR FRIENDS, WEREN'T YOU?
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I MEAN, I'M TERRIBLY SHY, SO I DON'T HAVE ANYONE LIKE THAT.
OH!

I'M SORRY! I WAS TOTALLY CAUGHT UP IN MY OWN PROBLEMS!
IT'S FINE. REALLY.
FOR ME, SCHOOL IS A PLACE OF LEARNING, SO I'M OKAY WITH IT.
BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'M VERY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL AND EAT LUNCH WITH YOU, NEKO-CHAN.
YOU REALLY LIKE HER, DON'T YOU, MIYA-SAMA?
SHUT UP, SHUN-GETSU.
...WHY ARE YOU SO SCARED OF INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE, NEKO-CHAN?
YOU DON'T REALLY SEEM THE SORT TO ME...
MIYA-CHAN IS SUPER-NICE, ISN'T SHE?
I GUESS.
MIYA-SAMA~! WOULD THIS MAKE YOU A TSUNDERE?
HOW WOULD I KNOW!? I'LL CRUSH YOU!
OH.
COME TO THINK OF IT...

WHEN I WAS LITTLE, EVERYONE WOULD ALWAYS TAKE ONE LOOK AT ME AND SAY, "IT'S A MONSTER!"

SO I STARTED TO GET SCARED OF HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH PEOPLE ...

IS IT... BECAUSE OF THE KUDA?
YEAH...


I'VE GOTTEN A LOT BETTER NOW, BUT EVEN SO, WHEN I'M OUT IN PUBLIC...
...ALL I CAN THINK IS "THEY'RE GOING TO HATE ME! THEY'RE GOING TO THINK I'M WEIRD"...AND I CAN'T EVEN MOVE.
BUT... I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THIS FOREVER.
I WAS SO, SO SCARED...
...AND JUST STAYED COOPED UP IN THE HOUSE, TOO FRIGHTENED TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ANYONE.

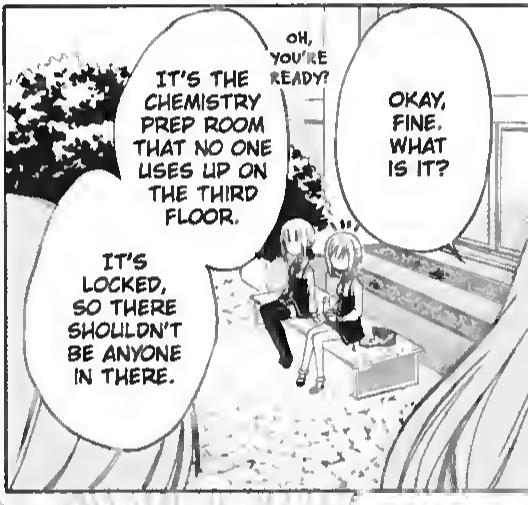
GYU (CLUTCH)
SO I'M...
...GOING TO MAKE IT SO I CAN LIVE A NORMAL LIFE, LOOKING LIKE A NORMAL PERSON.
I'M GOING TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED PRIESTESS.
I'LL BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED PRIESTESS AND EXORCISE MY KUDA!
GU (CLENCH)
IT'S ONLY A POSSIBILITY RIGHT NOW, BUT I'VE DECIDED TO BE OPTIMISTIC AND POSITIVE AND BELIEVE THAT IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!
.....ME TOO.

I WANT TO BE A PRIEST-ESS.
...AND I—!
I'M GOING TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED PRIESTESS TOO!
I HAVE SOMEONE I NEED TO PROVE MYSELF TO.
I WANT TO SHOW THEM THAT I CAN MAKE IT ON MY OWN!
...YEAH.
LET'S DO OUR BEST.
I'M GLAD THAT I HAVE PRIESTESS POWERS.

JUST THE THOUGHT OF WHAT THINGS WOULD BE LIKE IF I DIDN'T HAVE THIS POWER TERRIFIES ME.
I'M JUST SO GLAD THAT WE MET AT ALL.
...I COULD HAVE DESTROYED EVERYONE WHO BULLIED YOU!
IF ONLY I'D MET YOU SOONER...
I CAN BE OPTIMISTIC AND WORK TOWARD A GOAL BECAUSE OF THEM.
I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE HOUSE. I NEVER WOULD HAVE FOUND A REASSURING FRIEND WITH THE SAME GOALS AS ME...
NEKO-CHAN ...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
AND IT'S NOT JUST MIYA-CHAN AND THE PEOPLE AT THE CLINIC.
I NEVER WOULD HAVE MET SHICHIKAGE EITHER.
?
I HAVE TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED PRIEST-ESS SOON.
BUT...
... FIRST ...
I HAVE TO HURRY UP AND GET USED TO SCHOOL...

ESPECIALLY SINCE MEME-CHAN AND ENISHI-SAN USED THEIR POWERS FOR ME.
ARE MY EARS OKAY?
THEY'RE FINE.
YOU KNOW...
...WHY DON'T YOU JUST THINK OF EVERYONE AS POTATOES INSTEAD OF PEOPLE?
POTATOES
ENOUGH WITH THAT ALREADY!
KYA HA HA!
WAIT, WAIT! THIS ONE'S SCARY!
I FEEL BAD DOING THE POTATO THING.
REAL-LY?

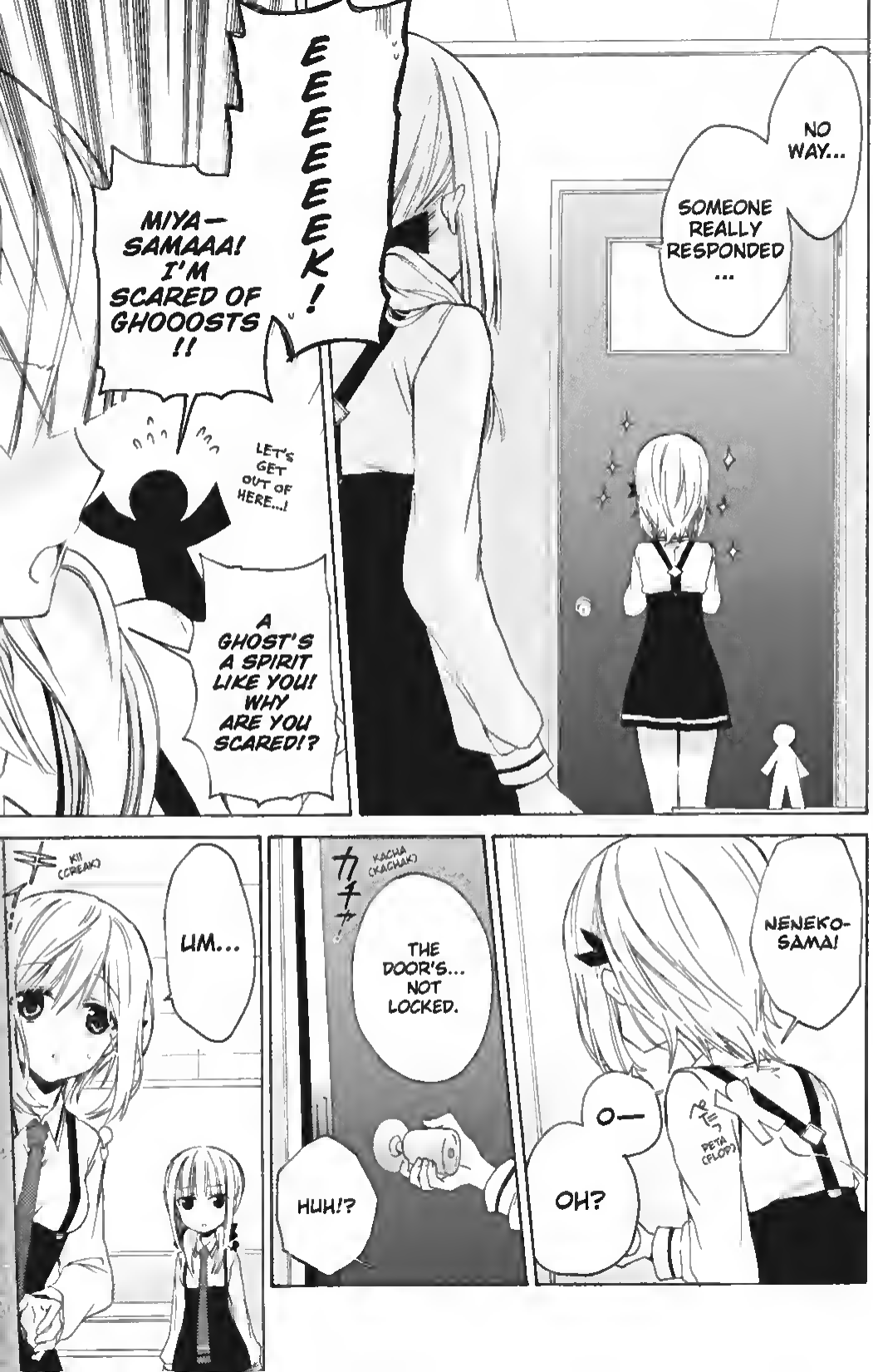
BUT AFTER SCHOOL, IF YOU KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND CALL OUT...
... SOMEONE ANSWERS "YEEEES?" FROM INSIDE!


OKAY, FINE. WHAT IS IT?
OH, YOU'RE READY?
IT'S THE CHEMISTRY PREP ROOM THAT NO ONE USES UP ON THE THIRD FLOOR.
IT'S LOCKED, SO THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYONE IN THERE.

KYAAAAAA!
びくっ
IKU (STARTLE)
OH, SHUT UP!
AH HA HA HA HA!
SO STUPID.
THAT'S JUST A NORMAL OLD GHOST STORY.
GHOST STORY?

WELL, EVEN THOUGH I'M STILL IN TRAIN-ING...
...I'VE GONE AND INVESTIGATED RUMORS LIKE THAT.
IN THE END, THE "MYSTERIOUS GROANING" WAS JUST WIND BLOWING THROUGH THE DOOR FRAME.
HYUUU (WHOOSH)
AND THE "GHOST FACE ON THE WALL" WAS NOTHING BUT A STAIN.
THEY JUST KEEP EXAGGERATING THE STORIES WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO LOOK INTO THEM.
IT REALLY IS STUPID.
BUT...
PA (PAT)
PA
...I KINDA WANT TO GO TO THAT PREP ROOM!
KIRA (SPARKLE)
KIRA
DOKI (BADUM)
DOKI
HUH?
NEKO-CHAN, DO YOU HAVE A THING FOR SCARY STORIES?
PREP ROOM

MAYBE WE CAN TALK...!
IF YOU CALL OUT, SOMEONE ANSWERS, RIGHT? THEY DON'T IGNORE YOU...
THEY'RE SO NICE!
HUH?
WELL...
SHE'S STUPIDLY ADORABLE.
NEKO-CHAN...
ENOUGH BRAG-GING.
...WAS TALKING ALL OPTIMISTICALLY, BUT SHE ACTUALLY MAKES THINGS A LOT WORSE, DOESN'T SHE?
KON (KNOCK)
KON
KON
DOKI (THUMP)
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
I—
IS ANYONE THERE?
YE...
...EE...
...ES?


NO WAY...
SOMEONE REALLY RESPONDED ...
EEEEEEK!
MIYA-SAMAAA! I'M SCARED OF GHOOOSTS!!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...!
A GHOST'S A SPIRIT LIKE YOU! WHY ARE YOU SCARED!?
NENEKO-SAMA!
PETA (FLOP)
O-
OH?
KACHA (KACHAK)
THE DOOR'S... NOT LOCKED.
HUH!?
KII (CREAK)
UM...

WH—
WHAT !?
BUWA (WHOOSH)
KYA!
!
!
AN EVIL SPIRIT !?

SU (SHD)
SO IT ACTUALLY WAS AN EVIL SPIRIT ...!
BA (WHAP)
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU!
ZURU (SHF)
IT SPLIT !?
OH NO ...!
WE'RE AT SCHOOL...IF SOMEONE GETS POSSESSED, THEN...!
BUT MIYA-SAMA...
...THE DIRECTOR EXPRESSLY FORBADE YOU TO DO ANYTHING ON YOUR OWN!
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO CALL FOR HER...
TA (DASH)

.....
...WHAT SHOULD WE DO, MIYA-SAMA?
...WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
I'LL GO AFTER THIS ONE...
...SO YOU TAKE CARE OF THE ONE BACK THERE!
NEKO-CHAN!?
NENEKO-SAN!?
WE GO AFTER IT AND CRUSH IT.
HFF...
HFF...
HFF...

YOU DO KNOW...
...WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU USE YOUR POWER, RIGHT?
I—
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO AFTER YOU CATCH UP TO IT?
...NENEKO-SAMA.
I KNOW.
...BUT —!
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT LIKE THIS.
IF ONE OF THE STUDENTS GETS POSSESSED, THEY'LL END UP LIKE MIYA-CHAN DID THE OTHER DAY.
THE OTHERS ARE NORMAL.
THEY DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO STAND UP TO IT LIKE MIYA-CHAN DID.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
...AND...
KYU (SQUEAK)

...I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO NEEDS TO BE POSSESSED AROUND HERE!
SHI-CHI-KAGE!

SFX: GU (CLENCH)
...LET'S GO.
SHICHI-KA—
PASU (FWIP)
...HUH?
KOTSU (TNK)
KON (PLOP)
SU (FWISH)

SU (LIFT)
GU (CLENCH)
.....
SA (WHIP)
DA (DASH)
OH...!

SHE'S GONE...
ペたん
PETAN (SLUMP)
OHHH...SHE EXORCISED IT FOR US.
I'M SO RELIEVED ...
.....
DON'T BE.
HFF...
SHE MIGHT HAVE FOLLOWED THE EVIL SPIRIT'S AURA.
YES, SHE WAS.
A-A PRIESTESS ...?

HUH?
YOUR EARS.
AH!!
D—
DO YOU THINK THEY'RE GOING TO BE MAD?
I-I MEAN, IT WAS DANGEROUS FOR THE PEOPLE HERE AT SCHOOL ...
IT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD TO BE THINKING OF OTHERS.
BUT WHAT IF YOU COULDN'T COME TO SCHOOL ANYMORE BECAUSE OF THIS?
I CAN'T STOP YOU FROM USING YOUR POWER, AFTER ALL.
OH.
I'M SORRY...

OH WELL.
YOUR CONSID-ERATION FOR OTHER PEOPLE...
...IS WHAT I LOVE...
... ABOUT YOU.

EEK!
WH-WHAT!?
ZUZA (SCOOT)
THAT REACTION AGAIN...
I LOVE YOU.
AAA-AAH!
HUH?
HUH!?
WHY... THAT...
...ALL OF A SUDDEN ...!?
NENEKO-SAMA, I CAN SEE YOUR UNDERWEAR.

SO CRUEL!

SORO
SORO (CREEP)
THERE, THERE. COME HERE.
NEKO-CHAN!
TA (TROT)
WAAAH! WAAAH! HONESTLY! DON'T REMEMBER THINGS LIKE THAT!
PATA (CLAP)
STOP DANCING AND COME OVER HERE.
I'LL COVER YOUR EARS.

NEKO-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT ABOUT THE EVIL SPIRIT!?
OH...SHE USED HER POWER.
ANOTHER PRIESTESS CAME AND EXORCISED IT.
A PRIEST-ESS ...?
ARE THERE EVEN OTHER PRIESTESSES HERE AT SCHOOL?
WHAT ABOUT YOURS, MIYA-CHAN?
I LOST IT... THOUGH I DID CHASE IT OFF THE SCHOOL GROUNDS...
OH. I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

NEVER MIND THAT, NEKO-CHAN...
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY PREPARE YOURSELF FOR WHAT AWAITS YOU AT HOME...
HUH?
THE DIRECTOR WILL...
OH...
? WHAT'S WRONG?
GIRLS... FROM MY CLASS ...

MEOW!
HUH?
IS THAT A CAT-EAR HEADBAND? IT'S SO CUUUTE ~!
AH HA HA HA!
PFFT!
WHOA, WHAT THE—?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR HEAD, IIZUNA-SAN?
SO, YOU KNOW...
HUH?
BUNNY-LIKE ONES USED TO BE POPULAR, AFTER ALL!
IS THAT THE HOT NEW THING THESE DAYS?
ORO (PANIC)
DID YOU MAKE THAT YOURSELF ~?
OH...!
UM...
ORO
"MIYA-CHAN MADE IT FOR ME"?
WHAAA~? REALLY!?
!?
MIYA-CHAN MADE IT FOR ME.
HUH?
BOSO (WHISPER)

PHEW...
GOT CAUGHT UP IN IT
SEE YOU! BYE-BYE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
OH...
N—
NO...!...
SO YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO DOES THIS KIND OF THING, SOUNOICHI-SAN?
SORRY! THOUGHT YOU WERE KINDA SCARY
HEY, TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE ONE SOMETIME, OKAY!?
AH!
I'M SO SORRY! SHICHI-KAGE SAID SOME-THING WEIRD...
OH...
NO.
BA (WHIP)
I DON'T...
...REALLY ...MIND.
I'LL HAVE TO PRACTICE MAKING CAT EARS...
AHEM.

I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE LOTS OF GOOD THINGS IN MY DIARY TODAY.
LET'S GO HOME.
PUNISH-MENT TIME~! ♡
BISHI (SMACK)
SHUUUUUU (FSSSHH)
IT'S GOOD THAT NOTHING BAD HAPPENED, BUT DON'T FORGET THAT YOU'RE ALL STILL LITTLE CHICKS!!
GAMI (NAG)
GAMI
GAMI
NO ACTING ON YOUR OWN! CALL ME! I REMINDED YOU OF THAT THE OTHER DAY, DIDN'T I!?
HEY— SHIN-GE-TSU-KUN, DON'T YOU DARE ENJOY THIS!
SORRY!
HAAH... OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH. IT'S GETTING LATE.
YOU CAN ALL LEAVE, EXCEPT FOR NENEKO-CHAN.
GI (CREAK)
HUH !?
BIKU (FLINCH)
NENEKO-CHAN, YOU...

HEH HEH HEH!
...BROKE TWO DIFFERENT PROMISES, SO YOU...
...GET A SPECIAL PUNISH-MENT. ♡
MY EXTRA-SPECIAL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT TECHNIQUE! "DEATH BY FOOT TICKLE"!!
GOSHO
GOSHO (TICKLE)
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
KYAAAAA!
OKAY!
PIKU
PIKU CTWITCHO

PHEW...
IT SEEMS THAT YOU LOT ARE JUST OVER-FLOWING WITH POWER.
I'LL HAVE TO MOVE THE SCHEDULE FORWARD A BIT...
AHH...
I-I'M GOING TO HAVE AN EMBARRASS-ING ENTRY IN MY DIARY SO SOON AFTER STARTING IT...
UNDER-STOOD?
LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YOU. NO MORE ACTING ON YOUR OWN!
Y-YESSS...
ZULUN (GLOOM)
ずーん
PIRI
PIRI
PIRI (TINGLE)
FROM TOMOR-ROW ON...
...I'M GOING TO HAVE ALL OF YOU START EXORCISING EVIL SPIRITS.

...ABOUT PRIEST-ESSES AND EVIL SPIRITS.
BUT FIRST...
...LET ME GO INTO A BIT MORE DETAIL...
OF COURSE, I'LL BE ACCOM-PANYING YOU.
HUH!?
BUT A FEW YEARS AGO, EVIL SPIRITS SUDDENLY STARTED SHOWING UP IN THIS TOWN FOR NO APPARENT REASON.
MORE AND MORE POP UP EVERY YEAR.
ORIGINALLY, WE PRIEST-ESSES...
...MOSTLY FOCUSED ON PROPERLY MEMORIALIZING THE SOULS OF THE DEAD. THAT WAS OUR JOB.
IF WE IGNORED THEM, THEY WOULDN'T JUST POSSESS PEOPLE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, OUR MAIN JOB IS NOW EXORCISING THOSE SPIRITS.
THEY WOULD SWALLOW UP THIS ENTIRE TOWN.

EXORCISE THE EVIL SPIRITS, PROTECT THE TOWN ...
...FIND THE CAUSE, AND DESTROY IT.
THAT IS OUR GOAL.
AND ONE MORE THING!
WE CALL THEM EVIL SPIRITS, BUT THEY WERE ORIGINALLY THE SOULS OF LIVING CREATURES!
WHEN YOU EXORCISE AN EVIL SPIRIT, THAT SOUL TAKES A FORM AND MANIFESTS MATERIALLY.
WE CALL THEM "SOUL FRAGMENTS."
THEY LOOK LIKE GLASS BALLS.

OF COURSE I WANT YOU TO EXORCISE EVIL SPIRITS, BUT I WOULD ALSO LIKE YOU TO COLLECT THOSE FRAGMENTS.
COLLECT THEM...?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT YOU NEEDED MORE EXPERIENCE TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED PRIESTESS, RIGHT?
THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH EXORCISING EVIL SPIRITS. IT'S ABOUT MEMORIALIZING SOULS.
YOU GAIN EXPERIENCE BY PERFORMING OUR TRUE CALLING, MEMORIALIZING.

SO...
...MAKE SURE YOU DON'T JUST EXORCISE, BUT ALSO GET THOSE FRAGMENTS, OKAY?
.....
OKAY!

...AND THAT PRIESTESS CAME TO GET IT...
SO THAT WAS A FRAGMENT...
OH...
I'M...
...GOING TO BE LIKE THAT...
YOU OKAY?
PERHAPS ...
...IT'S STILL A BIT TOO SOON FOR YOU?
WORRIED?
HUH?
OH...

BUT...
...I'M FINE. I'LL DO IT.
I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST.
THIS IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO SOONER OR LATER...
...TH-THOUGH I AM A LITTLE NERVOUS...
N—
NOT AT ALL!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I'M SURE YOU'LL MAKE A FINE PRIESTESS!
MM!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

OH, AND...
... DIRECTOR-SAN...?
GU (PULL)
UM...
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD LET GO OF MY LEG NOW?
AH HA HA!
I TOTALLY FORGOT. SORRY ~!
がしり
GASHIRI (GRIP)
OHH !?
.....!

Spirits & Cat Ears

HAAH...
KACHA
KACHA
KACHA
KACHA (CLINK)
OH... YEAH...
AREN'T YOU GOING TO DRINK THAT? IT'LL GET COLD.
NENE-KO-SAMA.
GACHA (RATTLE)
GACHA
GAKU (TREMBLE)
GAKU
GAKU
GACHA
GACHA
GACHA
GACHA
BICHA (SPLISH)
BICHA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

PAGE 4
EXORCISMS AND FISH
MILK

YOU'RE NERVOUS?
YEAH...
JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING OUT ON EXORCISMS STARTING TONIGHT HAS ME REALLY ANXIOUS.
I BARELY GOT ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT...
OH...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE THOSE BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES.
YOU CAN JUST DO WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING ALL ALONG, CAN'T YOU?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAS ME WORRIED ...
?
I JUST WENT WITH THE FLOW BEFORE ...
...BUT WAS THAT REALLY THE BEST THING TO DO? IT WASN'T ACTUALLY WRONG?
IF IT WAS WRONG, THEN I'M GOING TO FAIL.
ONCE I START THINKING LIKE THAT, I JUST CAN'T STOP MYSELF...
BURU (TREMBLE)
BURU
BURU
YOU ALWAYS GET INTO TROUBLE WHEN YOU START OVER-THINKING.

I KNOW. I'M TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT...
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE LOW ON SLEEP.
IF YOU STAY ALL STIFF AND TENSE LIKE THAT, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT TO TONIGHT.
...BUT WHEN I DO THAT...
...MY THOUGHTS GO IN AN EVEN WORSE DIRECTION, AND I JUST CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD...

AS LONG AS YOU REACH YOUR GOALS, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU GET THERE.

SU (REACH)
...FOR A CHANGE OF PACE...
...WHY DON'T WE GO FOR A WALK?

THEN...
KATA (CLATTER)

...HEY.
WHY DO I HAVE A COLLAR ON...!?
BECAUSE I WANT TO AVOID YOU OVERTHINKING THINGS AND ENDING UP NEGAPRESSED AGAIN.
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ME ANYWAY!?
NEGAPRESSED...?
I CARE ABOUT YOU SO MUCH THAT I WANT TO RESTRAIN YOU...
WHAT OF IT?
DON'T...
...*WHAT OF IT?* ME!!
I KEEP TELLING YOU TO STOP DOING EMBARRASSING STUFF LIKE THIS!
IF SOMEONE SEES US, THEY'RE GOING TO TREAT US LIKE WEIRDOS!!
THIS IS A BIG YARD. I DOUBT ANYONE'S GOING TO SEE US HE—

KYA
.....
I GUESS THEY DID.
AAAAH!
I...
...NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE INTO THIS SORT OF THING, NEKO-CHAN...
I'M NOT!
I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS...! SHICHIKAGE JUST UP AND DID IT!
TO EACH THEIR OWN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU'RE MY FRIEND. I'M NOT GOING TO JUDGE YOU FOR THE THINGS YOU'RE INTO.
LISTEN TO ME, MIYA-CHAN!
LIKE A "NO MEANS YES" KIND OF DEAL?
DESPITE EVERY-THING SHE SAYS, SHE DOESN'T REALLY FIGHT IT.
BUCHIN (SNAP)

WAAAAH!
STUPID SHICHI-KAGE! YOU BIG JERK!
I HATE YOU, YOU DUMMY!!
PA (DROP)
JA (JANGLE)
I SAID NO!
BUT YOU FORCED ME!
GUN (CLANG)
SORRY.
HUH?
I JUST THOUGHT THAT MAYBE IT MIGHT MAKE YOU A LITTLE LESS TENSE AND WORRIED.
I GUESS I TOOK IT A LITTLE TOO FAR...
I MADE YOU HATE ME...
UM... SHICHI-KAGE.
HUH ...?
OH...

I THINK THE SHOCK OF YOU HATING ME JUST MIGHT MAKE ME SHUT MYSELF IN THE CLOSET AND NOT EAT OR DRINK FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
DA (DASH)
NO DRINKING!?
SHICHI-KAGE !?
WAIT, I'M SORRY! I SAID TOO MUCH!
O—
OKAY, FINE. IF IT'S JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT...

...W-WE CAN TAKE A WALK...

NENEKO-SAMA, YOU'RE SO NICE...
SHICHIKAGE-SAN MADE THE MOST EVIL FACE EVER JUST NOW...
HERE! HOLD ON TIGHT!
HE HAS HER TRAINED WELL.

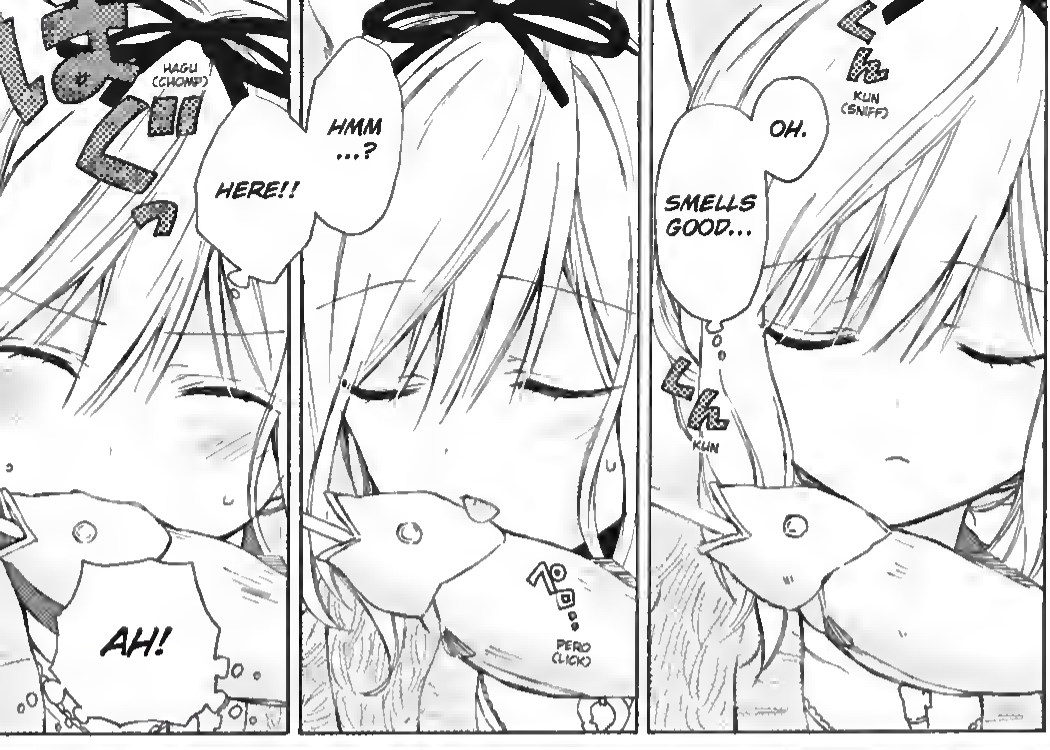
HUH!?
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN SAYING? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND!?
I'LL CRUSH YOU!!
I'LL BE THE ONE WEARING THE COLLAR, OF COURSE.
MIYA-SAMAAA!
COULD WE TRY DOING THAT TOO?
JUST KID-DING...
STILL...
...THAT KIND OF THING SEEMS RATHER NICE, DOESN'T IT?
REALLY?
!
BEING COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY SHUT DOWN IS KIND OF NICE IN ITS OWN WAY...
ZOKU- (SHUDDER)
NHAPH!
WHAT IS IT?
I SMELL SMOKE...
...AND SOMETHING REALLY DELICIOUS.
SUN (SNIFF)
スン
SUN

SO ARE THE POTATOES~!
THEY SMELL REALLY GOOD! ♡
THE FISH... AND THE SWEET POTATOES ARE DONE TOO, ENISHI.
POPS, THE MUSHROOMS ARE LOOKING PRETTY WELL DONE.
WHOOOA, JUST RIGHT!
IF WE JUST HAD SOME BEER, THIS WOULD BE PERFECT! ♡
SHUWAAAN (FOAM)
JUST SODA FOR YOU, MIRAI-KUN.
JURURU (DROOL)
I SEE.
LOOKS GOOD, DOESN'T IT? WE JUST FINISHED GRILLING.
GO AHEAD AND TAKE SOME ...
SO YOU WERE THE ONES BEHIND THAT SMELL.
GASASA (RUSTLE)
YOU FOLLOWED IT HERE? WELCOME ~!

WOW, I'M GETTING A REALLY EROTIC VIBE FROM YOU TWO.
OH? SO YOU HAVE THAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP?
IT LOOKS SO GOOD...
SMELLS WONDERFUL.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT, NENEKO-CHAN? TAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT~!
OH.
I RECOMMEND THIS ONE~!
SU (READ)

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, NENEKO-CHAN?
YOU DON'T WANT IT?
?
IT'S AYU GRILLED WITH SALT.
HOKU (STEAM)
HOKU

I THOUGHT SHE WOULD EAT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING...
LET'S GET YOU SOMETHING ELSE!
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I HAD NO IDEA.
OHHH
...SO THIS WILL DO.
NO. IT'S NOT GOOD TO BE PICKY...
HUH!? REALLY!?
SHE'S SCARED OF HOW IT LOOKS, SO SHE CAN'T EAT IT.
PURU (TREMBLE)
PURU
PURURU
NENEKO-SAMA, HOW ABOUT EATING IT WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED?
HUH!? WITH MY EYES CLOSED!?
YOU WON'T BE SO SCARED OF THE FISH IF YOU CAN'T SEE IT, WILL YOU?
I'LL BRING IT UP TO YOUR MOUTH.
WITH-OUT... LOOK-ING...
COME ON. YOU ALREADY TOOK IT. IT'S GOING TO BE GOOD, YOU KNOW.
YOU CAN'T WASTE IT.
UH...
OKAY!
GYU (SQUEEZE)
MM.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!!


HAGU (CHOMP)
HMM ...?
HERE!!
AH!
PERO (LICK)
KUN (SNIFF)
OH.
SMELLS GOOD...
KUN

GU (CRUNCH)
UGH!?
MOGU
MO
MOGU (MUNCH)
MOGU
MOGU
SHE STARTED WITH THE HEAD...
BARI (CRUNCH)
BARI (CRUNCH)

THIS ISN'T GOOD AT ALL...!
WHAT IS... IT...?
PACHI (BLINK)
PEEK
BAM

BLECH...
S—
SO BITTER ...

AAAGH!
DA (DASH)
BRING HER A POTATO SHICHI-KAGE-KUN.
POOR THING...
GAKON (KLATTER)
GARARARARA (CLATTER)
KAN (CLANK)
GO (GULP)
CAN TEA
PUWA!
A-A FISH HEAD...
PURU (TREMBLE)
I ATE A FISH HEAD...
THERE WAS A B-BIG HOLE IN ITS H-HEAD... BLECH!
NENEKO-SAMA.
PURU

SHICHI-KAGE...
THIS IS FROM ENISHI-SAN. TO CLEANSE YOUR PALATE. IT'S A POTATO.
...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT!?
NO WAY! OO YOU KNOW WHAT I JUST ATE!?
BURU (TREMBLE)
BURU
A FISH HEAD.
OON'T SAY IT!
THIS WASN'T JUST SOME CHANGE OF PACE, YOU KNOW!
YOU PUT A COLLAR ON ME ANO TOTALLY EMBAR-RASSEO ME!
THAT FISH WAS SOOOO BITTER!
THIS IS A NEW TRAUMA...
AND NOW MY HEAD IS TOTALLY FILLED WITH NOTHING BUT...
PITA (STOP)!!
OH.

I...
...COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT WAS MAKING ME SO WORRIED EARLIER.
EVEN THOUGH I LOST SLEEP OVER IT.
HMM?
THAT'S GOOD.
HERE, YOUR POTATO.
HA (GASP)
BUT I'M STILL NOT GOING TO ACCEPT HIS METHODS!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT IT?
I AM!
HMPH!

KURU! (TURN)
SO WE MAKE ROUNDS WHEN THERE AREN'T A LOT OF FOLKS AROUND...
...CALL THE SPIRITS TO US AND EXORCISE THEM...
EVIL SPIRITS HAVE AN EASIER TIME FINDING PEOPLE WITH SPIRITUAL POWER LIKE US.
BUT...
IT'S BECAUSE SHE ATE THAT FISH HEAD EARLIER...
じっ... (STARE)
NO! THIS IS NO TIME TO PANIC.
I'M GOING TO SCREW UP AT THIS RATE.
PHEW...
AND IF I SCREW UP, I CAN'T BE A REAL PRIESTESS.
NENEKO-CHAN, YOU OKAY? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
I'M FINE...
NOW THAT WE'VE GOTTEN TO THE REAL THING, I'M ALL NERVOUS AGAIN.
どキどキ DOKI (BADUM) DOKI
どキどキ DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI

BUTSU (MUTTER)
BUTSU
DON'T SCREW UP.
DON'T SCREW UP. DON'T SCREW UP. DON'T SCREW UP.
BUTSU
GUNUNUNUNU (CONCENTRATE)
NENEKO-SAMA, THAT'S GOING TO HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.
WHAT ARE YOU PUTTING MORE PRESSURE ON YOURSELF FOR?
BUT—!
NEKO-CHAN!
ZAA (WOOSH)
IT'S HERE.

BUT...
AN EVIL SPIRIT...
もにゃ
MONYAAAAN (FLOOP)
...IT'S KINDA CUTE.
OKAY THEN, MEME-CHAN. HAVE ENISHI PUT UP A BARRIER.
O-OKAY!
YOU SURE YOU WANNA GO WITH SUCH A WEAK ONE?
HMM...
OH WELL. AN EVIL SPIRIT'S AN EVIL SPIRIT! THIS IS JUST RIGHT FOR A FIRST TIME!
FUYO (FLOAT)
FUYO
DIREC-TOR...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR SURROUNDINGS WHEN YOU'RE INSIDE A BARRIER.
WE'LL KEEP WATCH FROM OUTSIDE...
...SO GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR FIRST EXORCISM!
OKAY!

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
JUST CALM DOWN.
IT'LL BE OKAY.
!
LOOK!
GUGU (STRAIN)
!?
PO (POP)
TH—
THERE'S MORE!?
SO MANY...
PO PO PO
NEKO-CHAN!?
PO (WHAM)
KYA ...!
BUWA (FWOOSH)
GU (STOP)
?

びとっ!
BITO (CLING)
HUH ...?
NENE-KO-SAMA!
BA (WHAP)
OW...!
GARI (CHOMP)
AH...
I-IT BIT ME!?
ぶるぶるぶる
BURU (TREMBLE)
BURU
BURU

I IMAG-INE...
...IT'S REACTING TO YOUR KUDA.
IT MIGHT TRY TO EAT YOU WHOLE TO GET THE KUDA'S POWER.
IT'S GOING TO EAT ME...?
PLUS, YOU LOOK TASTY.
I'M NOT!
HOW DARE YOU BITE NEKO-CHAN!?
ZA (ZSH)
NO MATTER HOW CUTE YOU ARE, I'LL STILL CRUSH YOU!
SHALL WE GO!?
SHIN-GETSU, SPIRIT OF SHARP-NESS.
I ORDER YOU!
SERVE ME...

...AND DANCE!
SU (SWIP)
!
YES!
UNDER-STOOD.
NENEKO-SAMA.
O—
OKAY!
SHA (FWOOSH)
ヤッ

HUH?
I...
OH!
ミカヅ!
SHA
IT JUST NEVER ENDS.
WE'LL HAVE TO GET THE MAIN BODY...
WITH THIS MANY COPIES FLOATING AROUND LIKE THIS, IT'S HARD TO SINGLE THAT ONE OUT.
...CAN'T MOVE...?

WHY?
NEKO-CHAN!
USE YOUR WORDS OF POWER! IF WE DON'T GET THEM ALL AT ONCE, THIS'LL NEVER END!
IS IT BECAUSE I'M NERVOUS? NO, IT CAN'T BE...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
...THE KUDA IS RESPOND-ING...
...TO THE CONTACT FROM BEFORE?
DON'T TELL ME...

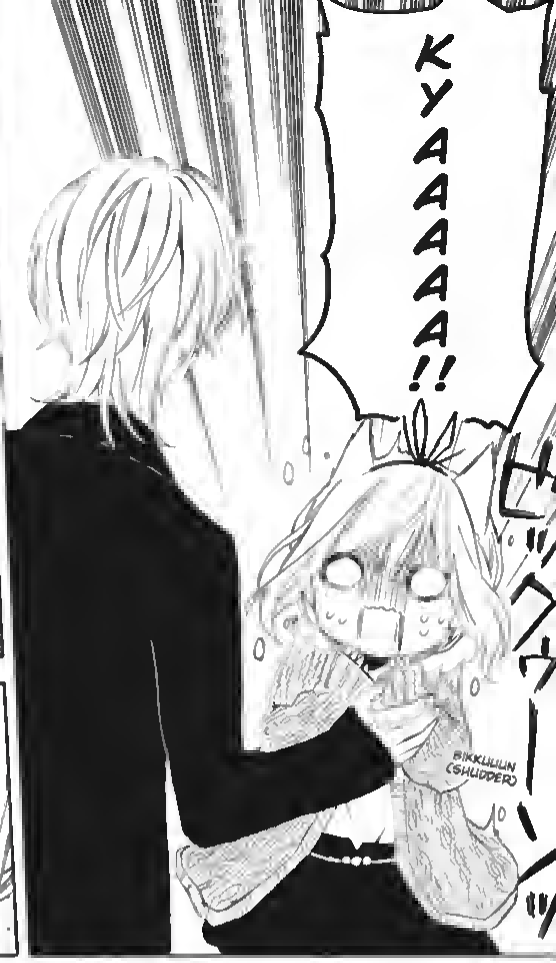
MIRAI-CHAN.
BE READY ...
...JUST IN CASE...
'KAY.
I HAVE TO HURRY.
I HAVE TO HURRY UP AND SPEAK MY WORDS OF POWER.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO EXORCISE IT LIKE THIS.
NEKO-CHAN!
IF I DON'T EXORCISE IT...
...I CAN'T...
...BE A...
... PRIES...
... TESS...

HEH!
MON-
STER.
HEH!
HEH!
MON-
STER.
MON-
STER.
HEH!
MON-
STERS
SHOULD
...
STAY
AWAY.
KUDA
MON-
STER.
...BE
DESTROYED.
PAN
(SMACK)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HURRY UP...
...AND SAY YOUR WORDS OF POWER.
OTHERWISE, I'LL COLLAR YOU AND MAKE YOU EAT ANOTHER FISH HEAD.

UGGGH, IT'S SO NASTY...
I FINALLY FORGOT ABOUT THAT, AND NOW I CAN TASTE THAT BITTERNESS AGAIN...
SHICHI-KAGE, YOU JERK! YOU'RE EVIL! HORRIBLE!
THEN...

...THINK ABOUT ME.
HUH?


KYAAAAA!!
BIKKUUUN (SHUDDER)

BY THE WAY...
...IT'LL BE A SWIMSUIT THIS TIME.

DON'T GET DISTRACTED. JUST THINK ABOUT ME...
...AND FOCUS YOUR WORDS OF POWER ON ME.

A SWI—
かあっ
KAA (BLUSH)
SWIM...! YOU MEAN, THOSE SKIMPY... LITTLE THINGS?
COME ON.
YOU HAVE TO HURRY. SOUNOICHI-SAN'S NOT DOING SO WELL ALL BY HERSELF.
AHH...
!
GUGU (CLENCH)
OH...
I CAN MOVE.
SHICHIKAGE...

SHICHI-KAGE, SPIRIT OF CHAINS.
I ALLOW IT!
MIYA-CHAN!
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.
NEKO-CHAN!
ZA (CRASH)
ZU (THUD)
PLEASE ...
...RE-STRAIN ME!
GOT IT.

DO (WHOOSH)
PAN
PAN
PAN
PAN (POP)
PHEW
GOOD. EVERY-THING WORKED OUT.
PA
PA
PA
PAN
PAN
PAN
IT'S LIKE FIRE-WORKS ...
WHOA~! THIS IS EXHILA-RATING.
PAN
PAN
PAN

OKAY THEN, NENEKO-CHAN, MIYA-CHAN.
HOLD OUT YOUR RIGHT HANDS ON TOP OF EACH OTHER.
SU (SLIDE)
HERE.
KORON (ROLL)
THIS IS THE SOUL FRAGMENT YOU RETRIEVED TODAY.
CONCEN-TRATE.
OKAY!
WE...
...PRIEST-ESSES, MASTERS OF WORDS...
...GIVE TO THIS VAGRANT SPIRIT ITS PROPER PATH...
...AND JUST RE-WARDS.

FU
(FWOOSH)
.....OH.
KAKUN
(CLUMP)
GASHI
(GRAB)
FU
(FWOOSH)
UMM...

YOU OKAY?
...NOW ...
JUST ...
FOR A MOMENT...
...I COULDN'T FEEL...
...THE EARS.

TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR RIGHT HANDS!
OKAY, ALL DONE!
SOOO...
...CONGRAT-ULATIONS, NENEKO-CHAN, MIYA-CHAN!
SO BOTH OF YOU STAY READY AND KEEP AT IT!
IT'S JUST THE FIRST STEP...
...BUT THERE'S A LOT MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!

THE "POSSIBILITY" ...
...INSIDE OF ME HAS TURNED INTO "CERTAINTY."
IF I BECOME A PRIESTESS, I CAN EXORCISE THE KUDA.
OKAY!
RIGHT!
NOW, LET'S HEAD HOME.
NENEKO-CHAN.
I'M UP FOR A DRINK WHEN WE GET BACK~!
RIGHT, YUKARI-CHAN?
YEAH, YEAH. OKAY.
GOOD JOB ON YOUR FIRST EXORCISM.
THANK YOU.
.....
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

EVERYONE IS NERVOUS THEIR FIRST TIME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
OKAY.
...BUT...
I'M...
...SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I GOT SO NERVOUS PARTWAY THROUGH THAT I COULDN'T EVEN MOVE.
MY HEART IS STILL POUNDING...
...EVEN SO, I FEEL A LOT MORE CONFIDENT AFTER EXORCISING IT.
I'M A PRETTY PESSIMISTIC PERSON, SO I COULD END UP THINKING TOO MUCH ...
...AND GETTING ALL NERVOUS AGAIN...BUT I'LL DO MY BEST...
...AT BOTH EXORCISING EVIL SPIRITS AND COLLECTING FRAGMENTS.
...SO I CAN BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED PRIESTESS.
SO I CAN EXORCISE THE KUDA.

BUT...
...EXORCISING THE EVIL SPIRIT...
...FINDING THAT CERTAINTY, THAT CONFIDENCE...
...I COULDN'T DO ALL THAT ON MY OWN.
SO...
...I HAVE TO WORK HARDER.
...OH NO.
I—
IS THIS WHAT HE WAS SEWING EARLIER TODAY ...?
FURU
FURU (TREMBLE)
I SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH A PLAIN FABRIC INSTEAD OF A PATTERN. THIS WAS A MISTAKE.
A MISTAKE ...
THEN, CAN I CHANGE?
NO!

WELL... IT WAS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO.
HAVE YOUR TASTES CHANGED? DO YOU HATE THEM NOW?
OH...
SORRY FOR NOT REMEMBERING.
THEY'RE FINE.
HUH? ME?
NAH.
NOT ME. YOU SAID THAT YOU LIKED THEM.
I-I MEAN, THEY'RE CUTE, AND I DON'T HATE THEM...
...BUT DID I ACTUALLY SAY THAT?
BUT I DO THINK THAT YOU LOOK GOOD IN FRILLS...
THIS IS FRILLY TOO.
YOU REALLY DO LIKE FRILLY CLOTHES, DON'T YOU?
UM...
SHICHI-KAGE...
...THANKS FOR EVERYTHING TODAY.
I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A NEW ONE
HE REALLY REMEMBERS THE TINIEST DETAILS ...

AND I MADE PROGRESS BECAUSE OF IT.
YOU HELPED ME SNAP OUT OF IT...
YOU HELPED ME OUT TODAY EVEN MORE THAN YOU USUALLY DO.

AFTER ALL...
I'M NOTHING WITHOUT YOU. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THERE'S NO NEED TO THANK ME.
I STILL HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR WAY OF DOING IT!!
OH, BUT!

AS LONG AS YOU'LL WEAR ANYTHING, OF COURSE.
...WORK MYSELF TO THE BONE FOR YOU.
...I'LL...
...AS YOUR FAMILIAR...
I'M GOING TO GO GET CHANGED NOW!
I'LL WRITE IN MY DIARY AND THEN GO TO BED!
わあ
WAA (CLAMOR)
BUT THAT MAKES ME LESS MOTI-VATED!!
WELL, IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE MOTIVATED.
SEE!? THAT! YOU ALWAYS SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!
UGH! YOU JERK!
THAT'S MY PROBLEM!

OKAY, WRITE!
JARA (JANGLE)
I'M SORRY-YYYYY!
BASHI (WHAP)
BOTH PAGES, THEN.
YOU...
...BIG BULLY OF A FAMIL-IAR!
BASHI
I'M SORRY!
BESHI (SMACK)
EEK!?
IF YOU FILL AN ENTIRE PAGE THANKING ME, I'LL LET YOU GO.
GAN (SHOCK)
UM!
UM...

♪
♬
CONGRAT-
ULATIONS
ON YOUR
PROGRESS.
HUH?
DID YOU
SAY
SOME-
THING?
NAH.
♪
♬

To be continued in Vol. 2

illust :
COCOA
FUJIWARA

illust : MIYUKI NAKAYAMA
GORGEOUS GUEST ILLUSTRATIONS AND ENCOURAGING COMMENTS ON THE NEXT PAGE!

illust : NAMORI
NENEKO-CHAN AND MIYA-CHAN ARE JUST TOO CUTE...!!
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO VOLUME 2.
NAMORI

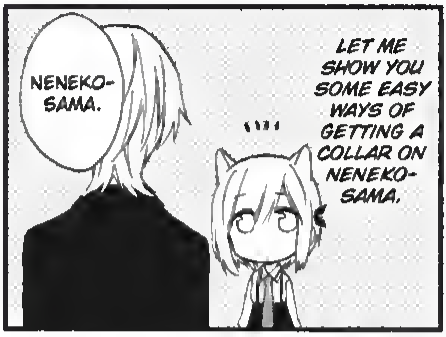
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RELEASE OF SPIRITS AND CAT EARS VOLUME 1!

illust : YUI HARA

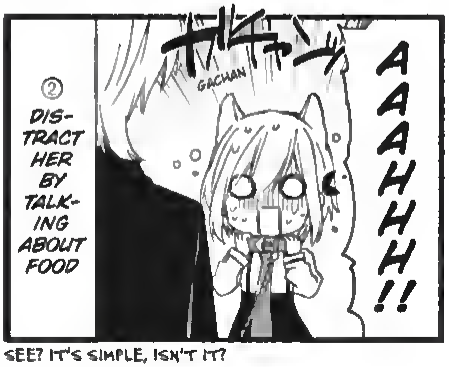
BOTH THE GIRLS AND THE BOYS THAT NAKAYAMA-SENSEI DRAWS ARE SO CUTE. I LOVE THEM ALL. I ABSOLUTELY LOVED THE STORY WHERE NENEKO-CHAN AND MIYA-CHAN GOT CLOSER, SO I DECIDED TO DRAW THEM. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE!

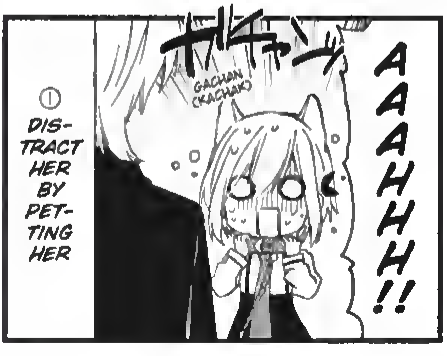
Hara.

I WANT A CONNECTION WITH NENEKO-SAMA.



I MEAN, PUDDING'S SO SWEET AND DELICIOUS. I DON'T GET HOW YOU COULD PUT SOY SAUCE ON IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
AND EVEN IF YOU DID, SEA URCHIN...OH, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SEA URCHIN TASTES LI—
NO WAY! NO WAY! NO WAY!
NO, IT'S TRUE.
TH-THAT SORT OF OBVI-OUS LIE ISN'T GOING TO GET ME, YOU KNOW!!



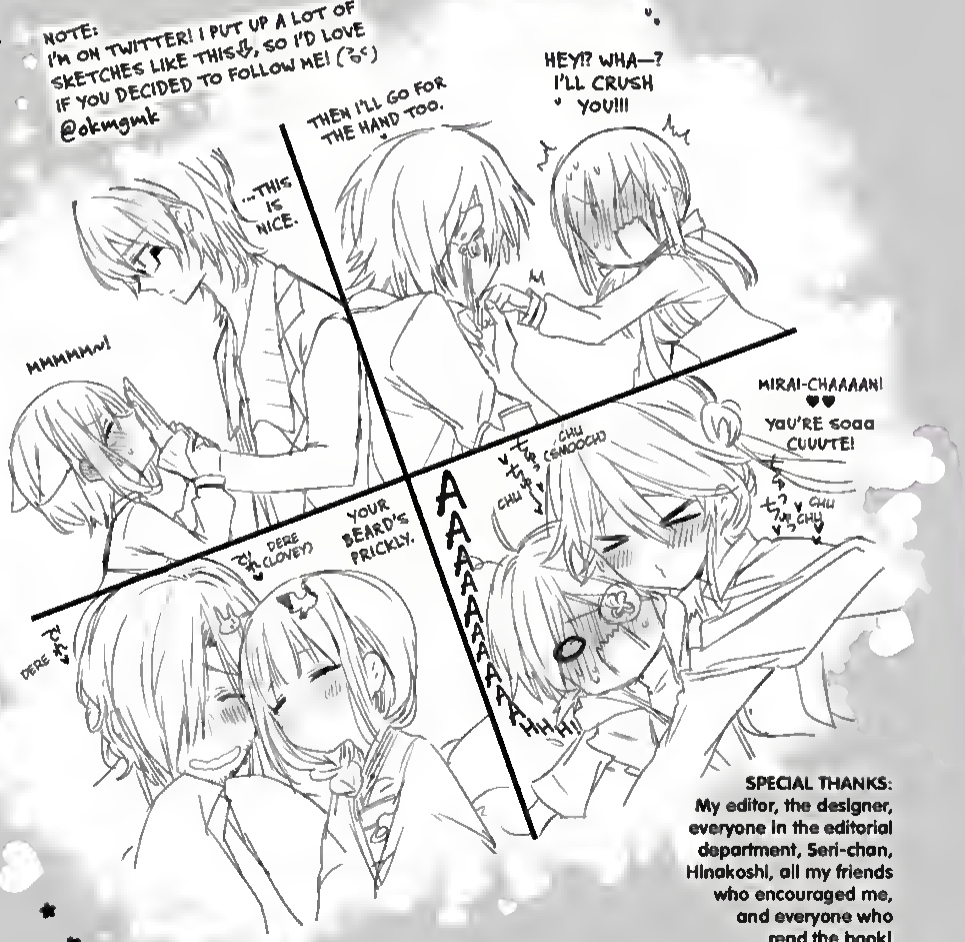


SEE? IT'S SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?

Hello, and nice to meet you. I'm Miyuki Nakayama. Thank you very much for picking up *Spirits & Cat Ears*, Vol. 11! I wasn't really sure what to talk about in the afterword, but I figured this time I'd just kind of ramble on about how the story came to be. One day, I, Nakayama, decided I wanted to draw a cute couple doing some bondage and S&M stuff, just for fun, as a sort of a gag. And so I made Neneko and Shichikage. Of course, you can't get anywhere without a story, so I started thinking of things, starting with a Japanese-style Snow White as a base. (The *shichi*, for "seven" in Shichikage is left over from that! The seven dwarves.) Just about then, my editor for *Spirits & Cat Ears* contacted me. We got to talking about ideas for a series, and my editor said, "What about a story with all sorts of couples who can all be in the spotlight?" So I took Neneko and Shichikage, the pair I was already thinking about, and fitted them into the new story. And thus, *Spirits & Cat Ears* was born!! That's it! I really did ramble! (LOL) I don't really know what's going to become of it. (LOL) I do know what the ending for this story is going to be already, but there are a bunch of ways that it could get there. Not even I know what's going to take place. If I just happen to wander off onto a side path, I hope you stay with me all the way through~!

Please do stick with Neneko and the gang! And so, this was the making of *Spirits & Cat Ears*! Next time, if I have the space for an afterword, I think I'd like to put some character profiles in~!

Anyway! I'll see you in the next volume~! Thank you so much!!

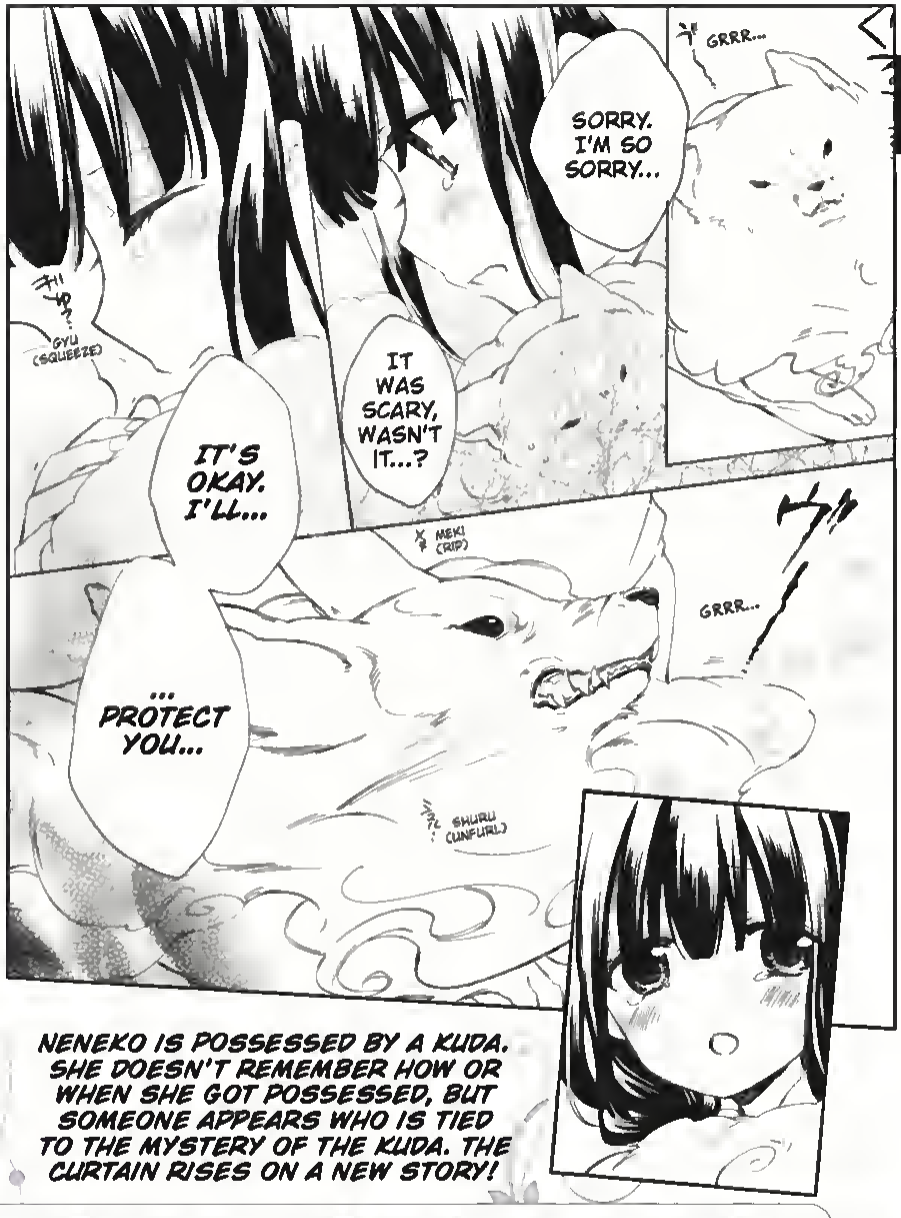


SPECIAL THANKS:
My editor, the designer, everyone in the editorial department, Seri-chan, Hinakoshi, all my friends who encouraged me, and everyone who read the book!

NEXT TIME

SHICHI-KAGE, SPIRIT OF CHAINS, I ALLOW IT!

...PLEASE! RESTRAIN ME!



NENEKO IS POSSESSED BY A KUDA. SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER HOW OR WHEN SHE GOT POSSESSED, BUT SOMEONE APPEARS WHO IS TIED TO THE MYSTERY OF THE KUDA. THE CURTAIN RISES ON A NEW STORY!

PRIESTESS × FAMILIAR × BONDAGE! A MASTER AND SERVANT LOVE COMEDY, COMPLETE WITH BONDAGE!

SPIRITS & CAT EARS VOL. 2

COMING MAY 2017!

.....I'M SORRY.
NENEKO-SAMA?
HEY... ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?
LOOK. IT'S JUST A CAT-EAR HEAD-BAND.
NENEKO-SAMA, LOOK!
O-OH NO! WHAT DO I DO!? THE KUDA IS EVEN AFFECTING SHICHIKAGE... IS IT BECAUSE HE'S WITH ME?
DOES IT SPREAD TO THE PEOPLE AROUND ME...!? KUDA GERMS!? A KUDA CURSE!? THE KUDA PLAGUE!? AM I PATIENT ZERO!? KUDA, KUDA, KUDA, KUDA, KUDA, KU...
どよ...
DOYO (GLOOM)
BURU (TREMBLE)
GATA (SHIVER)

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Rochelle Gancio

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

KUDAMIMI NO NEKO Vol. 1
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